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ROW

to the
athletes

TONY BENN

The wisdom in his
seven garden sheds

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to skate for Britain

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Cricket, a victim of
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PAGES OF
TOP JOBS
Section 3

THE TIMES

No. 64,720

THURSDAY AUGUST 12 1993

45p

Doctors struggle to save Irma

Major opens door to 20 war victims

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND BILL FROST

BRITAIN will take another 20 seriously wounded victims of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in an initiative triggered by the plight of five-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic, John Major announced last night.

Forty-one victims, many of them children, are to be brought out today or tomorrow. Twenty will come to Britain, 16 will go to Sweden and five to Ireland. A government air ambulance with 25 doctors and nurses will fly from Britain to Ancona in Italy and from there an RAF Hercules will take them to Sarajevo. Swedish aircraft will also be involved. Italy, too, was trying to organise evacuations to Ancona.

The government is meeting the cost of treating the injured, helping accompanying families with living costs in Britain, and waiving immigration red tape to enable them to stay, initially for up to six months. The Home Office will also help with accommodation for families staying in Britain.

As Irma Hadzimiratovic's condition deteriorated, the prime minister said that 20 other ill children could be brought from Sarajevo

with injured victims. Much of the air travel costs, thought to be around £100,000, is being met by the Saudi government at King Fahd's instigation.

Doctors treating Irma yesterday expressed grave concern over her deteriorating condition after the onset of severe bacterial meningitis.

Great Ormond Street Hospital said she was "very sick and still unconscious" after suffering an overnight relapse. An emergency scan had revealed abnormalities associated with severe meningitis.

"She is being given drugs to support her heart and is being constantly monitored," a spokeswoman added.

Under new arrangements Britain is expected to take two or three more victims a month while the conflict continues. The health department was awaiting details from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the names and conditions of the 20 patients coming to Britain.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said: "The emergency planning co-ordination unit has received the names of hospitals across the country able to accept patients. When we get details of the individual patients' injuries we can then match the patients with the hospitals."

The Laura Ashley Foundation yesterday offered Great Ormond Street £10,000 to help treat seriously ill children from Sarajevo in the future.

Some 25 sacks of mail, including presents of teddy bears, dolls and flowers, were delivered from well-wishers. Nuffield Hospital offered 12 places to victims of the conflict. The group will provide its services free of charge.

Mr Major announced the rescue operation in Stockholm at a joint news conference with Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister. The Swedish health and welfare board had con-

tacted several Swedish hospitals to make sure they could take wounded patients.

Mr Major called on other countries to join "and make sure that in future we are able to deal more speedily and more comprehensively with people who need serious medical help and cannot get it". He rejected the idea that bringing out victims would encourage Serbs to continue their bombardment.

Those to be rescued will be selected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and victims will be accompanied by their parents.

John Smith, the Labour leader, said he welcomed the fact that Britain was "at last" offering "help". "France has already taken 96 people and Germany 57, so we have been lagging behind," he added. "We should not hesitate to take as many as we can."

It was even more important that the attacks on Sarajevo ceased for good, Mr Smith said. "If the peace talks fail and the Serbs begin again to shell the defenceless people of Sarajevo, the international community must be prepared to act decisively."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said: "This is welcome news indeed. This welcome news indeed. This welcome news indeed."

Father's plea, page 2
Talks deadline, page 9
Letters, page 17

Lord Chief Justice to go on TV panel

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, has taken the unprecedented step of agreeing to be a panellist on the BBC's *Question Time* programme this autumn.

It is the first time that any practising judge, let alone the country's most senior one, has accepted an invitation to take part in one of the most keenly watched political and social debating programmes on television. He will be exposed to public questioning on a range of the leading topics of the week, including those on government policy, as a member of a panel likely to include a government minister.

Sheila Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor's department, said Lord Taylor had made his decision after being approached by the programme-makers several times over the past year. "He feels it is something he would like to do," she said.

The other panellists have yet to be chosen. A spokesman for *Question Time* said no formal invitations had yet been issued. *Question Time*, which is chaired by Peter Sissons, is now produced by Brian Lapwood, an independent production company.

which took over last year from the BBC. Lord Taylor's appearance is likely to take place at the end of October or beginning of November, after the party political conferences but around the time of the opening of Parliament and the Queen's speech.

Apart from the expected criminal justice legislation, the Lord Chief Justice could face questions across the whole law and order spectrum, from vigilantes to rape sentencing, police reforms or the privatisation of the penal system. He will also be expected to give his views on current political and social questions.

Lord Taylor has already broken new ground in his readiness to speak out in the media. In a radical departure from the policy of Lord Lane, his predecessor, who gave no interviews throughout his term of office, Lord Taylor last year instituted regular press briefings and has given live radio interviews.

He has also shown himself willing to speak out against government policy. His outspoken criticism of the sentencing framework in the Criminal Justice Act 1991 led to a rapid government U-turn.

Prisoner escapes to Cyprus

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU AND ANGELA MACKEY

FOLLOWING Asil Nadir's example, another Turkish Cypriot businessman has fled from Britain to northern Cyprus, embarrassing British authorities as well as the Denktash government, which fears the self-declared republic will become known as the new "Costa del Crime".

Gultekin Mustafa Ben 45, was jailed for five years in March for being the master-



mind behind a £12.5 million VAT fraud. He failed to return to Stanford Hill open prison in Kent on Saturday after being given a few hours' leave to visit his family.

His wife Annalisse and their two children flew to northern Cyprus on Friday night. Ben himself left from Dover and flew into northern Cyprus on Sunday, using his British passport.

Northern Cyprus is not Continued on page 2, col 7

Rosyth decision unfair, MPs say

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ACCUSATIONS of unfairness, flawed judgement and confusion were made against the Ministry of Defence by an all-party Commons committee yesterday over the decision to award the £5.5 billion Trident submarine refit contract to Devonport royal dockyard.

MPs from the Commons defence committee issued a highly critical report of the two-year process that led to the announcement in June that Devonport had been chosen instead of Rosyth, the Scottish yard.

The committee, which has six Conservative members, four Labour and one Social Democrat, is chaired by Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Tory MP for Uppingham. Since the document was published during the parliamentary recess, its impact caused only minor embarrassment for the defence ministry. However, officials agreed it was a stinging report.

The heaviest guns were reserved for the way the defence ministry "misled" Rosyth in pursuing the most expensive option, the construction of a £550 million purpose-built facility for Trident, called RDS7. The initial work, which

involved digging a huge hole for the concrete structure, had been funded by the ministry to the tune of more than £110 million.

However, "late in the day" (the middle of last year), Rosyth was told the ministry would be satisfied with less ambitious proposals from Devonport and Rosyth for upgrading existing docks. On the basis of the ministry's revised specifications, Devonport won with a bid that was £12 million lower on capital costs and £52 million lower on operational costs over 15 years.

The MPs said the uncertainty over what the ministry wanted "made them vulnerable to allegations that they had been unfair in the bidding process". They could see why Babcock Thorn, which runs Rosyth, had believed the ministry would be prepared to pay a premium for a new facility since that had been the original solution and the preparation for the yard had been funded by the government.

"We can also see why they (Rosyth) might feel at a disadvantage when late in the day Continued on page 2, col 8

Leading article, page 17

Stock market tops 3,000

THE stock market continued its record-breaking run yesterday on enthusiasm about recovery prospects and hopes of even lower interest rates (Janet Bush writes).

The £7.5 billion share price the FT-SE 100 index to a closing high of 3,006.1, up 34.5 points. This was just the latest

of a string of good performances which has taken the index up 79.6 in eight sessions. Share prices in Paris also ended at an all-time high, despite the deep recession in France, underlining the prospect of lower interest rates.

Prices soar, page 23

Changing the guard: Serb troops withdrawing from Mount Igman give a victory salute as a French UN vehicle passes on its way to the top

UN moves in as Serbs quit Sarajevo hills

By TIM JUDAH AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

BOSNIAN Serb soldiers were pouring off Mount Igman yesterday after days of confusing claims and counter-claims about their movements. The move could ease the threat of Nato air strikes against Serb forces and revive the Geneva peace talks.

Hundreds of soldiers packed coaches in the town of Travno at the base of the strategic mountain overlooking Sarajevo and lorries hauling light artillery streamed along the roads leading to the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale. At the same time a small unit of French "blue berets" sped in the opposite direction to replace the withdrawing Serbs.

The buses packed with soldiers appeared to contradict claims made earlier by the United Nations that far

from withdrawing their forces, the Serbs were reinforcing their positions on both Mount Igman and neighbouring Mount Bjelasnica. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, dismissed this as "a complete lie".

The Serb capture of the two mountains and the delay in handing them over to the UN caused the postponement of the Bosnian partition talks in Geneva. Although the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, yesterday threatened to walk out, saying the Serbs had still not completed their withdrawal, the pressure on him to rejoin the talks will now intensify. Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the European Community and United Nations negotiators, have indicated that they believe Mr Izetbegovic has been stalling for time in the hope that the Nato raids would go ahead.

Nonetheless, the negotiators last

night gave the Serbs until mid-morning today to complete the withdrawal from Mount Igman so that the negotiations could resume.

On Monday, Nato ambassadors in Brussels approved plans for air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs if they did not lift their siege of Sarajevo. The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, said after the Nato decision: "The alliance now has in place all the means necessary to take forceful action against the Serbs, should they not cease their intolerable behaviour." However, the decision to start bombing rests with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general.

Early yesterday coaches and lorries full of troops were driving through Pale and at lunchtime 20 more left from Travno. According to Lieutenant Drago Grubisic, in charge of transport, 137 vehicles with 2,500 men had

left Igman and Bjelasnica since Tuesday and 700 more were expected within the hour. He said that about 800 others would be withdrawn over the next ten days as the UN replaced them. "Our soldiers will remain there to ensure that the Turks (Bosnian Muslims) honour the agreement," he said. "If they don't, it will take longer."

The soldiers were withdrawing in accordance with an agreement by which they would be replaced by French UN troops who would prevent the expelled Bosnians from returning. Lieutenant Colonel Bosko Gvozden, commander of the retreating First Krajina Brigade, said his men were executing their orders but he was sceptical that a small UN force of 150 men could prevent the return of the predominantly Muslim Bosnian army. "If they prove incapable," he said, "then we'll have to go back up."

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Donaldson doubts the benefit of no win, no fee

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Master of the Rolls yesterday criticised government proposals to allow lawyers to take cases for nothing in the hope of doubling their fees if they win. Lord Donaldson of Lynton said that the scheme was unlikely to widen public access to justice and would be of little benefit to litigants.

He was joined by other lawyers who said that people would be deterred from bringing a legal action under the "no win, no fee" proposals because of the risks of paying the other side's costs.

Lord Donaldson said it was questionable whether the proposals would benefit the public. He said: "Where is the bonus for the client? If you are the litigant, you will end up with one set of legal costs whether you win, lose or draw."

On Tuesday Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, announced changes to his proposals, under which lawyers can agree with their clients to charge up to double fees if they take a case on a speculative basis. The original proposal, that lawyers could charge 20 per cent above their normal fee, came under fire

from the legal profession as being too small to make the risk worthwhile.

Lord Donaldson said the client would be certain that, if he won, he would have to pay not only his own lawyer's normal fee but possibly as much as double. If he lost, he would have to pay his opponent's costs. By contrast, the litigant on legal aid could recoup his costs from the other side if he won; if he lost, he would have to pay only a limited sum for costs.

He said that there was an ethical problem in that it would be uncertain what was a win. "The lawyer has an enormous stake in the outcome of the case. Say I have a broken leg and I sue and they offer me £5,000, and I am absolutely convinced my leg is worth £10,000, do I go on?"

There could be a conflict of interest if the client and the lawyer disagreed about whether to take the settlement; and problems over what would happen if the client insisted on seeking a higher award against the lawyer's advice, he said. "There is already a conflict to some extent and it has existed for years. But to have the lawyer's own money tied up in this way — that's something wrong."

The Consumers' Association welcomed Lord Mackay's proposals but cautioned against the cost disincentive. Ashley Holmes, a lawyer with the association, said: "Costs are always going to be a stumbling block. Any conditional fee agreement will mean that a consumer will be on risk as to the costs of the other side. This will act as a substantial disincentive to taking legal action. Fear of legal costs is already one of the biggest obstacles which stops people going to law."

He said the proposals would help access to justice and would encourage some people to go to law who otherwise could not afford to sue.

Judge Michael Cook, an expert on costs, said last night that, in practice, the proposals would not make a great deal of difference. Lawyers already had the freedom to negotiate fees with clients and, "in many cases", knew that if they lost they would not be paid.

He said that if the scheme was to be of benefit, the obstacle of costs ought to be removed. People should have the same protection as legally aided litigants and have their liability for costs limited to what they could afford.

Leading article, page 17

Family pleads for the world to save Sarajevo



Close comfort: Ramiz Hadzimiratovic with his daughter Medina yesterday

Doctors order more tests on critical girl

By BILL FROST

THE five-year-old Bosnian girl airlifted from Sarajevo to London in an attempt to save her life was last night undergoing a series of tests after her condition worsened.

Irma Hadzimiratovic was scheduled to go back to the operating theatre at Great Ormond Street hospital to have wounds in her back checked, as well as to undergo a series of abdominal scans.

Doctors treating Irma expressed grave concern over the child's deteriorating condition after the onset of severe bacterial meningitis.

A hospital spokeswoman

said she was "very sick and still unconscious" after suffering a relapse. An emergency scan had revealed abnormalities associated with severe meningitis. She said: "She is being given drugs to support her heart and is being constantly monitored."

Irma suffered spinal, abdominal and head wounds in a mortar attack which killed her mother in Sarajevo 13 days ago. She was brought to England with her father Ramiz and three-year-old sister Medina after the personal intervention of John Major.

She was admitted to Great Ormond Street on Monday, where she had a three-hour

operation to remove shrapnel from her back. Later, the hospital said she had developed meningitis and surgeons operated to drain fluid from her head.

It had been hoped that Irma was winning her battle for survival. Alma Sarajlic, a Bosnian doctor who visited her bedside, said: "She looked much better."

Yesterday, however, Dr Kathy Wilkinson, a member of the team treating Irma, said: "We are very, very concerned about her." But she said the child's case was not hopeless.

Messages of goodwill and support continued to arrive at

Father shows pain as Irma's health fades

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HOLLOW-EYED and painfully thin, the father of Irma Hadzimiratovic yesterday pleaded for help in ending the suffering in Sarajevo.

Ramiz Hadzimiratovic said: "Sarajevo is a big concentration camp without any water, without any gas, without food, without electricity, without anything. I, as an ordinary man, appeal to the world to help the people of Sarajevo."

Five-year-old Irma was critically ill yesterday after her condition deteriorated over night. Mr Hadzimiratovic, wearing a brown leather jacket and looking stunned by the glare of flashguns and television camera lighting, clutched at his younger daughter, Medina, 3.

"More children like my daughter Irma will... The translator finished for him: "He cannot say it — will be killed."

The media was told that Mr Hadzimiratovic was under great strain and would only make a statement and answer few questions. Dr Alma Sarajlic, of the Bosnia Women's Organisation, held Medina on her lap while he spoke.

Mr Hadzimiratovic said he was grateful to the British government for helping his daughter and to the international media for publicising her plight. But he said what was needed was a stop to the fighting. Irma was wounded in a Serb mortar attack that killed her mother.

Mr Hadzimiratovic also disclosed that he was initially given false hopes for his daughter's early recovery. "When Irma was injured at the end of July, when I went to see her in hospital in Sarajevo, they told me she was out of danger," he said. "I think the doctors did their best."

Great Ormond Street yesterday. Twenty-five sacks of food, including tinned beans, dolls and flowers from well-wishers were delivered.

The Laura Ashley Foundation offered the hospital £10,000 to help to treat seriously ill children brought to Britain from Sarajevo in the future. Sir Bernard Ashley, head of the foundation, said he had been moved by Irma's plight and wanted to help.

Nuffield Hospitals, a registered charity, offered 12 places to victims of the conflict free of charge.

Major's promise, page 1
Ultimatum to Serbs, page 9

Banks rapped for not warning of charges

The Consumers' Association has criticised banks for keeping customers in the dark about charges that they intend to impose. Jean Eaglesham, the association's head of money policy, also accused them of breaking the spirit of the Code of Banking Practice by charging interest on debts that had been incurred by previous bank charges.

"Customers find it difficult enough to claw their way out of debt without banks greasing the pole," she told Sir George Blunden's committee which is reviewing the code. "Customers are fed up to the back teeth with banks dipping into their accounts without notice to extract charges and interest. Too many banks are trotting out meaty-mouthed excuses for withholding the kind of crucial financial information customers need to control their finances in difficult times."

Barclays and Lloyds, two of the banks singled out for criticism, hit back saying they provided a list of charges.

Smith changes timetable

John Smith is to propose changes to Labour's timetable for choosing candidates for the next general election to avoid MPs getting bogged down in local reselection battles. The Labour leader will tell local parties that they should delay picking their candidates until after next June's European elections and then move quickly through the summer and autumn to get them in place. The aim is to prevent Labour's parliamentary effort being hampered by MPs having to keep one eye on events in their constituencies.

'Less bad' rapist appeals

The man at the centre of the "not so bad" rape case is to appeal against his conviction. David Forrest, 36, was jailed for three and a half years at Winchester Crown Court after he was found guilty of raping a woman he met for a meal. Judge Addison told Forrest that he had committed a less serious type of rape because he knew his victim.

Mates calls for cash cuts

Northern Ireland's problems could be solved by the government starving it of cash, according to Michael Mates, the former security and finance minister in the province. Mr Mates told the *Belfast Evening Telegraph* that a lack of financial support would act as "an incentive for change", forcing politicians in Ulster to talk about the future.

Man's body exhumed

The body of a man who died two months ago from cancer has been exhumed after police received a complaint from his wife. Donald Moorby, 25, died at his home in Kelbrook, Lancashire. Det Supt Sandy Robson, heading the enquiry, would not comment on a newspaper claim that police were investigating an alleged "mercy killing".

Celestial fireworks

Sky-watchers were up late last night in the hope of seeing hundreds of thousands of shooting stars lighting up the night in a huge meteor storm. The burning particles from Swift-Tuttle were expected to be especially impressive because the comet recently passed through the solar system, so the Earth was expected to encounter its main dust trail.

Cambridge innovation

Cambridge University plans to introduce part-time courses from home, breaking a 700-year tradition. Regent House, the university's parliament, will debate in November proposals to hold master's degree courses from October 1995 that will require regular visits to the city but allow students to do most of their work at home.

Labour peer for Oxford

St Catherine's College, Oxford, has appointed Lord Plant of Highfield, a leading Labour supporter who failed his 11-plus, as its master in an effort to raise its profile to match a strong academic reputation. Lord Plant, 48, professor of politics at Southampton University, said the first time he had been to St Catherine's was for the interview.

Prisoner escapes to Cyprus

Continued from page 1
recognised by Britain and no extradition treaties are in force. This has already blocked any attempts to have Mr Nadir returned to this country to face charges. Yesterday Rauf Denktaş, the northern Cyprus leader, said he had not received any requests for Ben's extradition.

Friends of Mrs Ben, who is Danish by birth, said she was "extremely surprised" when her husband joined the family at their two-storey villa in the port of Kyrenia. Mrs Ben is managing director of President Holidays, which specialises in holidays to Turkey and northern Cyprus. Until a year ago Ben was managing director. According to a company spokesman, however, he no longer has any business connections with the firm.

Mrs Ben told friends by telephone yesterday that she returned to work on Monday as planned. Her friends had no news of Ben's plans.

Ben had been released for one day on five previous occasions without trouble. He has escaped without paying the £100,000 fine levied on him by the court. He was given a year to pay or serve another year in prison.

Several other Turkish-born men were jailed with Ben after an six-month investigation by Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue, codenamed Operation Ankara. The fraud involved bogus invoicing at Turkish-owned clothing factories in north London.

Sentencing Ben at Southwark Crown Court, Mr Justice Marcus Armitage-Davies QC said: "This was fraud on a colossal scale and the stain of dishonour on all those who received illicit gains is immense."

'Trident decision flawed'

Continued from page 1
they found themselves having to fund an alternative proposal from their own resources," the MPs' report said.

Until the middle of last year, "it was by no means clear whether an upgrade rather than a new facility would meet the operational and safety requirements of the Royal Navy". The MPs said: "We consider that the process by which Rosyth and Devonport were asked to make proposals for future nuclear refits was flawed, and potentially unfair."

They also said that given the "very modest" difference in price between the Devonport and Rosyth bids for upgrading existing docks, amounting to just over one per cent of the £5.5 billion contract over 15 years, it was "unwise" to base the decision solely on this figure.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, had agreed that either dock could have carried out the work and that cost was the only factor which had led to Devonport being chosen.

Defence Committee Seventh Report, *The Royal Dockyards* (HMSO £15.60).

Leading article, page 17

Corruption

Our report yesterday that BIC, the razor and pen company, plans to hand out razors to fans at football grounds was incorrect. BIC is supporting a value-for-money scheme among Premier League sides with a cash prize for the supporters' club of the winning team. We apologise for this error.

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WORLD LEATHER

THE TIMES
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This Saturday in
The Times Magazin

Anti-drug vigilante found guilty of kidnapping pusher

By RONALD FAUX

A VIGILANTE who seized a man supplying drugs to children and threatened to throw him off a cliff was convicted of kidnapping yesterday.

Alan Hocking, 27, said afterwards: "I still feel that I did the right thing, and I would do it again if a member of my family was involved. There is a big drugs problem in schools in my area. I hope the boys that I did this for will stay off drugs."

Teesside Crown Court was told that Hocking believed the law would be too soft on Michael Roberts, 18, who he said had supplied LSD to three boys aged 13, 14 and 15. He and the father of one of the

boys, whom he refused to name, took the youth by car to the coast. When they came to a padlocked gate, Hocking told the teenager: "Pity it's locked, I was going to throw you over the cliffs."

The jury was told that Mr Roberts, 18, was then attacked with a nail-studded lump of wood and dumped bleeding and shocked near his home at Seaham, co. Durham.

Hocking, a butcher from nearby Murton, gave himself up the next day and was charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment and assault. The jury took three hours to convict him of kidnapping, but he was cleared of

the other charges. Hocking said in court that Mr Roberts got into his car willingly after he pretended that he wanted to buy drugs. He ordered Mr Roberts to empty his pockets and found two packets of yellow powder, which analysts later said was 17 grams of amphetamine.

"I was intending to give him the fright of his life. I called him a little scumbag and a bastard," Hocking said. "When we stopped I told him to get out of the car and then I punched him on the side of the face. He went down curled into a ball with his hands over his head and the person I was with began kicking him. I don't know how many times."

Hocking denied hitting Mr Roberts with a 3ft length of blood-speckled wood which the prosecution produced in court.

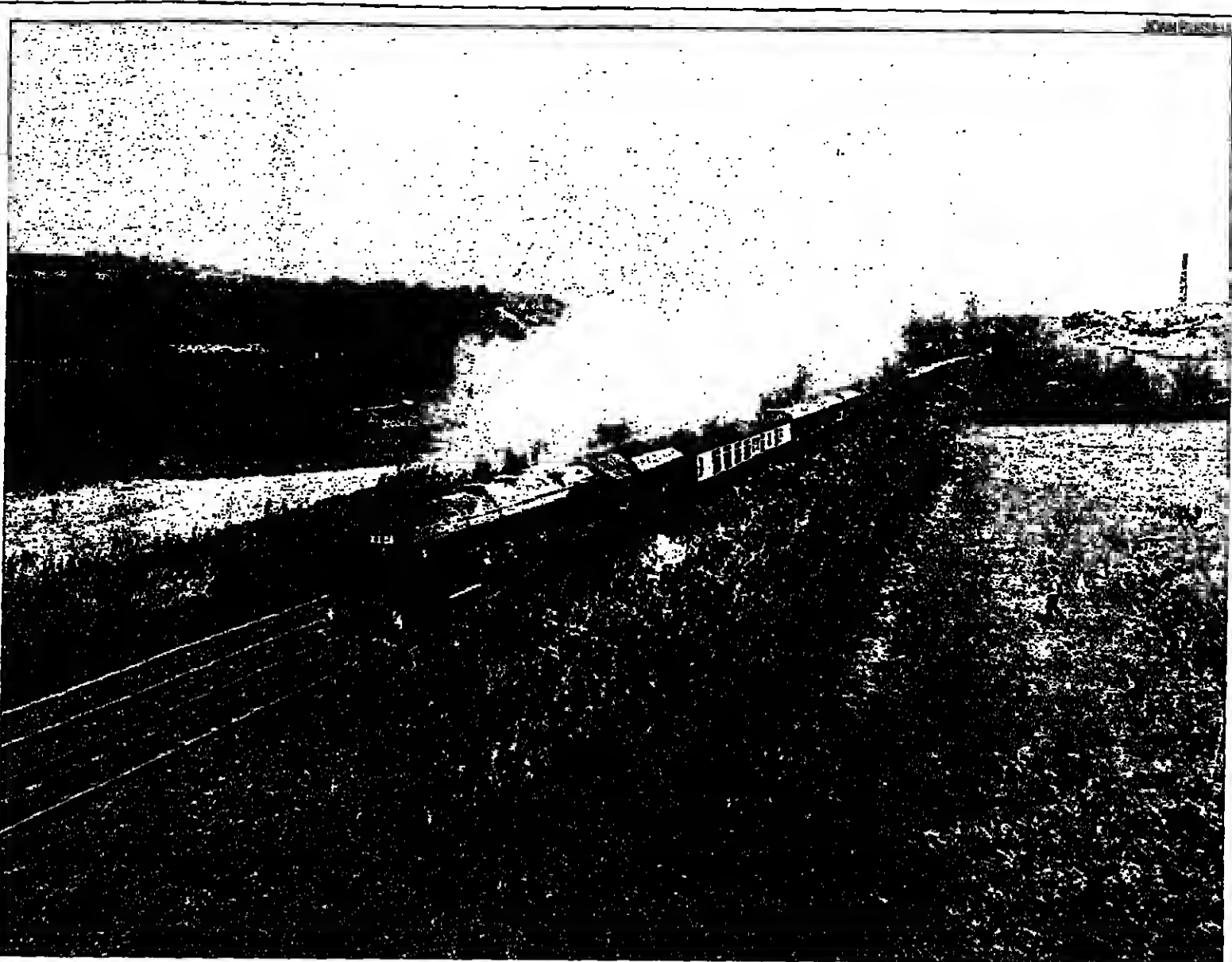
Det Sgt Stephen Glass of Seaham police said that since the incident on March 26, Mr Roberts had been given a police caution after he admitted possessing LSD and cannabis. But during the three-day trial, Mr Roberts admitted he had supplied LSD to a boy aged 13.

Hocking was asked by his barrister, Geoffrey Hunter, why he did not report Mr Roberts to the police. "They would have gone to see him and all he had to do was to deny it," he said. "I just wanted to try to frighten him so that maybe he would not do it again."

Hocking, whose girl friend is expecting their second child, was released on conditional bail for reports. He will be sentenced on September 13.



Hocking: "I still feel that I did the right thing"



Back to the past with all its hissing, puffing power, the Duchess of Hamilton passes through Saltire in West Yorkshire after pulling out of Leeds station to commemorate the day 25 years ago when British Rail

finally abandoned steam trains in favour of ones powered by diesel and electricity. InterCity, Flying Scotsman Services and the Steam Locomotive Operators' Association, which organised the 13-carriage

train that travelled to Carlisle, had no trouble in selling the 440 available tickets to those for whom the romance of steam is still a strong attraction. More than 180 years after Richard Trevithick's first loco

hailed a load on rail, societies across the country preserve and run a handful of the remaining mighty coal-powered machines, recalling the days when Britain's railways ran 20,000 steam locomotives.

Police appeal for clues on sex abduction

By RICHARD DUCE

HUMBERSIDE police were last night trying to piece together the missing details of a woman's 18-hour rape ordeal at the hands of a four-man gang who kidnapped her in Gooles town centre.

The 27-year-old woman was bundled into a car and then driven more than 40 miles to Bradford, West Yorkshire, where she was assaulted at an unknown address in the city. Eighteen hours after her ordeal began on Monday night, the woman was driven to a Bradford taxi firm and pushed out into the street. A taxi driver took her to Bradford Royal Infirmary, where staff alerted police.

The woman had never been to Bradford before and so has been unable to tell detectives where she was held captive or the name of the taxi firm. Police are therefore attempting to retrace her movements, and are appealing to the taxi driver who took her to hospital to come forward and help with their investigation.

Yard wants deportation role change

By STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

SENIOR Scotland Yard officials to meet Home Office officials to review deportation policy amid anxiety at the continuing involvement of police in removing illegal immigrants from the UK.

The move comes in the wake of the controversy over the death of Joy Gardner, 40, the Jamaican woman who collapsed during a struggle with officers from the aliens deportation squad. Two constables from the squad and a woman detective sergeant have been suspended from duty.

Police chiefs are understood to be unhappy that officers

badly needed on the London streets should be doing such work when the public wants to see them dealing with crime.

Bill Taylor, assistant commissioner in charge of specialised crime units at the Yard, and David Veness, deputy assistant commissioner in charge of the department running the deportation squad, are due to meet Home Office immigration officials to review the unit's work, which is currently suspended.

One of the options likely to be considered by the Yard's review of its role in deportation cases is that Home Office

immigration officials should take on the work themselves. Within Scotland Yard, there is a feeling that the involvement of police has grown without any assessment made of why they are needed.

Police point out that customs officers, for example, can act without the police and that immigration officials could also be given powers to use force or execute warrants.

Mrs Gardner's mother, Myrna Simpson, accompanied by Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, yesterday delivered a letter to the prime minister at 10 Downing Street

demanding a public enquiry into her daughter's death. Joy Gardner, 40, died on August 1, four days after a struggle with police as her home in Crouch End, north London, as they tried to serve her with a deportation order.

The preliminary finding of a second post-mortem examination, commissioned by Mrs Gardner's family, was that she died from a form of suffocation, according to Mr Grant. The family has maintained Mrs Gardner suffocated after being restrained with a belt, handcuffs, and having her mouth taped.

Mother blames psychiatrist for her killer son's suicide

By A STAFF REPORTER

A GRIEVING mother yesterday criticised a psychiatrist after an inquest was told that her son killed his girlfriend in a frenzied knife attack and then killed himself.

She said she was "very angry" that Dr Aggrey Burke, of St George's Hospital, Tooting, southwest London, had known Kenneth Craig was not taking his medication and had also been told that his girlfriend, Maria Luisa O'Donoghue, was in danger.

Craig, 25, of Tooting, set his petrol-soaked body alight in a delicatessen, a Westminster inquest was told.

Speaking after the inquest Doreen Craig, his mother, said Dr Burke knew Craig

had threatened the woman in the past. "I told Dr Burke that he needed to be given medication in hospital. He had suffered serious mental illness for the past four years. I feel very angry about the situation. I told Dr Burke that my friend's life was in danger. He knew my son was not taking his medication."

The inquest was told how Craig, who had a violent criminal record including rape and robbery, attacked his girlfriend, an Italian interpreter, in the bathroom of her flat in Kensington, west London. He then doused himself in petrol and walked to a petrol station near where he sat on the counter and set himself alight in front of staff. Dr Burke, a consultant psy-

chiatrist, told the inquest that Craig was "insecure with a 'delusional jealousy' towards his girlfriend". He did not trust her, he said. He admitted he was worried about potential danger to the public but said Craig was not suffering from a psychopathic disorder and was not unstable enough to be committed to hospital.

Dr Burke knew Craig was not taking his medication. "If he had taken his tranquillisers, it would not have happened," he said.

Recording an open verdict on Craig and a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs O'Donoghue, the deputy coroner, Dr William Dolman, said Craig was a "timebomb" that was ticking.

Son of cult leader admits child abuse

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE son of a cult leader yesterday admitted in court that he had sexually abused children in a North Wales commune where free love was advocated.

Among the children whom Matthew O'Byrne, 25, admitted having abused when he was about 14 was his half sister Rebecca Teacher, who was then aged three.

The admission came at the Old Bailey the day after Mr O'Byrne had denied claims of sexual and physical abuse put to him in the witness box.

Miss Teacher, now 18, is accused of blackmailing their mutual father, Kevin O'Byrne, by making demands from him for up to £60,000 for her silence about the activities of the cult.

Miss Teacher alleges that she was regularly beaten, starved and made a slave at the sect's former farmhouse near Bangor, as well as being sexually abused. She and her stepfather, William Webb, 43, deny conspiring to blackmail her father last year.

Matthew O'Byrne, a prosecution witness, told the jury that he lived at the commune for a year but was moved to London, where the sect also had premises, after children complained about his misconduct.

Under cross-examination he said: "The allegations over sexual activities were true. I can't fully recall how often they happened. They happened to more than one girl and they relate to boys as well."

"As far as I am aware no force was ever used. I am not aware of any objections being raised. The children were aged between four and eight."

scars on her hands from the alleged beatings by ruler, horse whip and the backs of knives, was made a ward of court and now lives with her mother, Christina, and Mr Webb in Barnet, north London.

The court has been told that she tried to sue her father for her childhood suffering and when this failed sought compensation through blackmail, enlisting her stepfather's assistance.

Miss Teacher, who was born into the cult when her



Matthew O'Byrne: prosecution witness

mother was a teenager, told police she had been beaten and abused for years until her mother and stepfather fled the group when she was 11.

Kevin O'Byrne, 35, who is known as Kevin of the Teachers, will not be called by the prosecution to give evidence. He founded the cult, a registered charity known as The Teachers, in 1972, and fathered at least 12 children with a number of members, including his co-founder Michelle Bland.

The trial continues today.



LOOKS FOR HIGH SEASONS

Iain R. Webb picks clothes to take you through the rest of summer - cool separates with a nautical flavour for lazy days of sunshine and showers

Plus: LIVING WITH MURDER

How do you come to terms with the violent killing of your child? By writing a bestseller or trying to forget? By hating the perpetrators or getting inside their minds? Brian Masters talks to the parents of murder victims and discovers that while they cannot forgive, they discover a new energy and understanding to help them make sense of their lives

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Policewomen in Ulster to be armed

By a Staff Reporter

POLICEWOMEN in Northern Ireland are to be given firearms for the first time, it was announced by the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday after a decision by Sir Hugh Annesley, the chief constable.

By next April all the women in the force, about 800, will be carrying firearms both on and off duty. The step had been under discussion for several years and was brought in as part of the programme of ensuring equal opportunity for men and women in the force.

The RUC said the chief constable had decided there should no longer be any distinction between men and women officers in relation to firearms.

Sam Beattie, chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation, welcomed the move, which he said was "the inevitable consequence of equality". It was something the women had fought for. Six policewomen had been killed and 88 injured by terrorists over the past 24 years and he did not think they would now

After years of indecision, the RUC is to offer its male and female officers equal protection and issue firearms to all staff

be more open to attack. The IRA had shown they were prepared to kill any police officer and attack any police patrol whether it was all-male, mixed or all-female.

"A lot of female officers would say they would prefer to be armed and protecting themselves and their colleagues rather than be the one unarmed officer everybody else is looking out for," Mr Beattie said.

Sir John Hermon, the former chief constable of the RUC, was totally against the arming of women and fought against it.

The guns decision was the result of the work of an advisory committee which drew its members from the RUC, Police Federation, Police Authority and Equal Opportunities Commission.

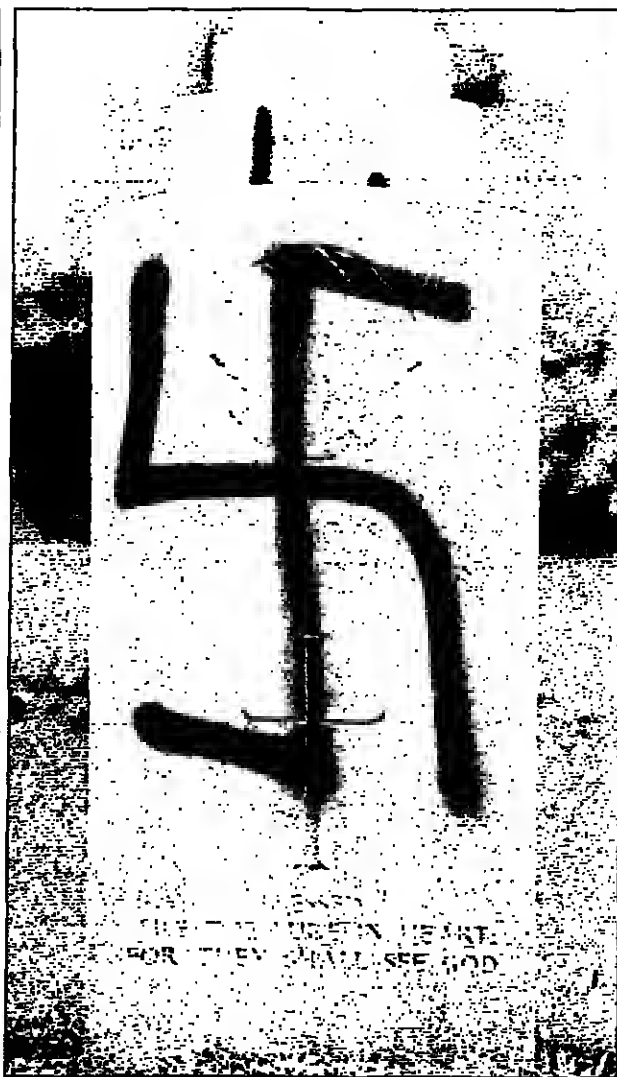
The commission praised the announcement. Joan Smyth, chairwoman and chief executive, said: "The decision about

arming policewomen, in the context of Northern Ireland, was always going to be a difficult one."

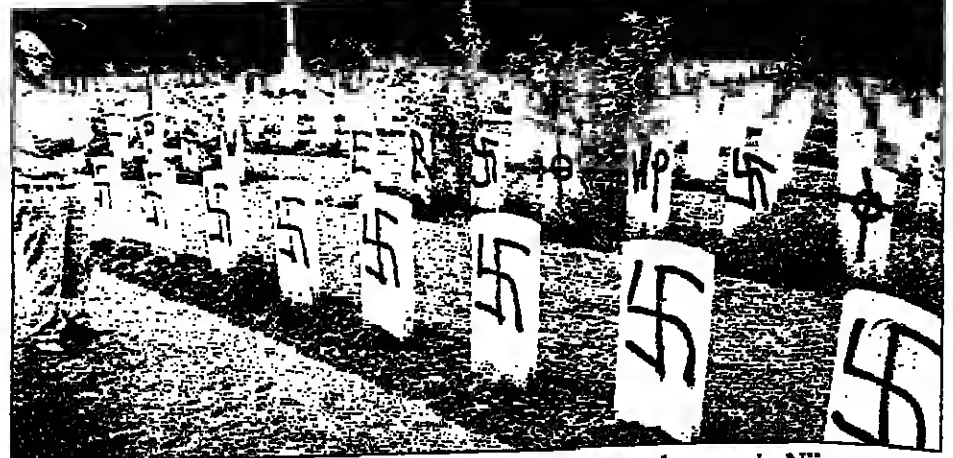
Women account for 10 per cent of RUC officers and for 25 per cent of new recruits, since applicants of both sexes were assessed on the same grounds. There is to be a transition period over the next few months while the women are trained and provided with weapons. The RUC plans to have the new policy fully in operation for April 1, 1994.

A baby girl and her parents were recovering yesterday after a bomb blew up their car in Belfast. The 20-month-old child was suffering from shock. Her father and mother were injured by shrapnel. The Ulster Freedom Fighters claimed responsibility.

Sean Lavery, aged 21, son of a Sinn Féin Belfast councillor who was shot dead in a UFF attack at their Belfast home on Sunday was buried yesterday.



Ugly reminder: a grave of the Highland Light Infantry



No peace: a local man inspects some of the desecrated graves in Nijmegen

Extremists attack war graves

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE graves of more than 200 British and Allied soldiers have been daubed with swastikas and racist slogans at a cemetery in the Netherlands.

Right-wing extremists are believed to have carried out the attack on the Jonkerbosch cemetery at Nijmegen, near the German border. Dutch police yesterday set up a 12-strong team to hunt the attackers. Willem van Hieren, a spokesman, said 212 graves had been desecrated at the second world war cemetery, where 1,600 Allied soldiers are buried.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Brit-

ain said the incident, in the early hours of Tuesday, was the worst of its kind for many years. The cemetery will be kept open while the graves are cleaned, as it receives many visitors from abroad.

Most of those buried at Jonkerbosch were British soldiers who fell in the Battle of Arnhem. Ten thousand British and Allied paratroopers fought in vain to capture the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem in 1945. More than 1,000 were killed.

The Dutch have a long tradition of tolerance towards foreigners and were swift to condemn the attacks on Turk-

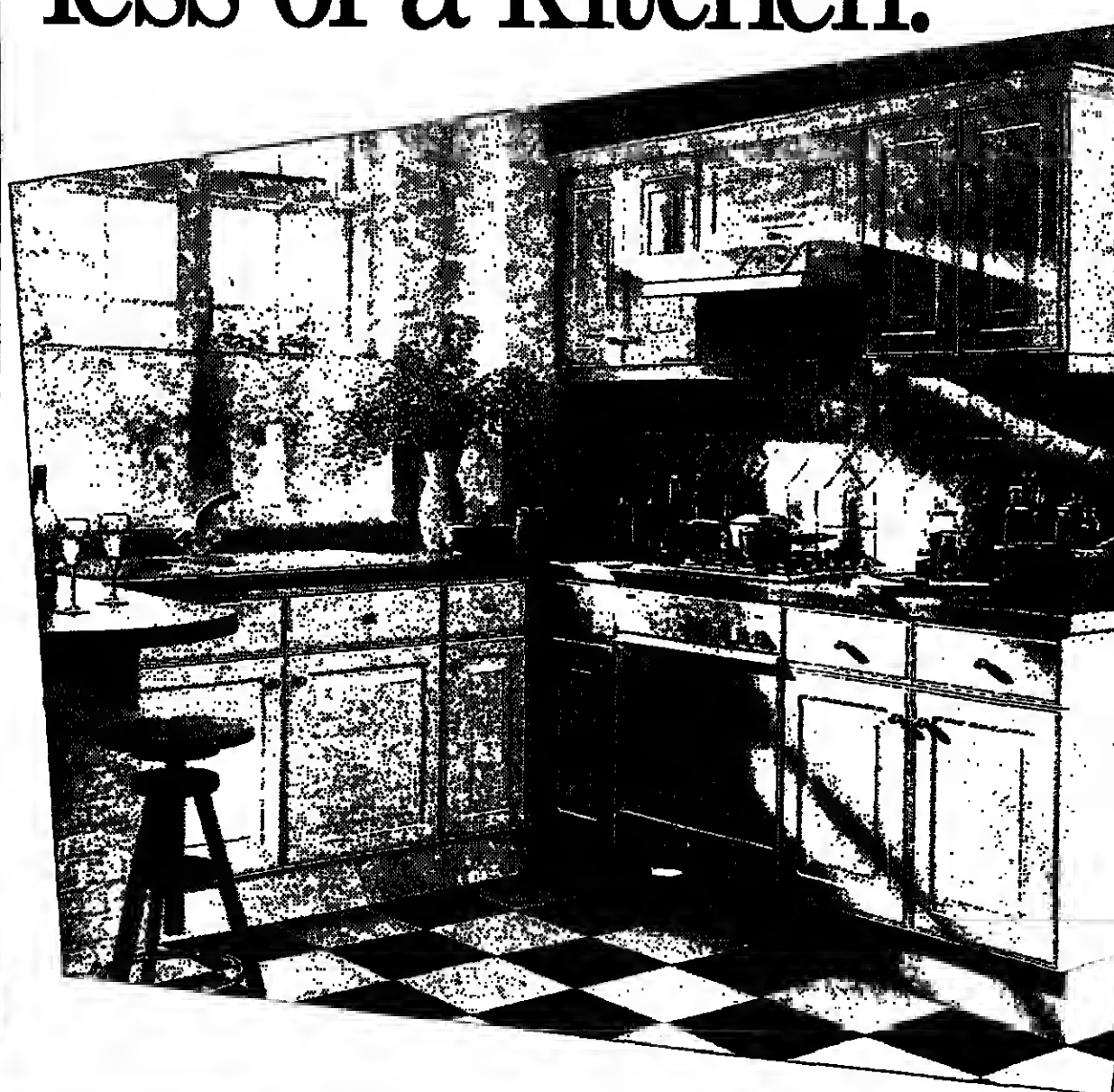
ish immigrants in Germany earlier this year, but there is growing prejudice.

Recession and rapidly rising unemployment have caused resentment towards foreigners and a government survey indicated that 48 per cent of the population felt there were too many foreigners in the country. Ethnic minorities account for under 6 per cent of the Netherlands population of 15 million.

Nijmegen council is to hold a special ceremony today to lay wreaths at the cemetery in honour of the war dead.

Nazi hunt, page 10

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Injured fireman to sue man he rescued

By a Staff Reporter

A FIREMAN is suing a man he rescued for negligence because of the injuries he sustained to his head and neck in the process.

Stuart Sanderson, of the West Yorkshire fire service, is claiming damages against Howard Pearson following the rescue from a garage which burst into flames when a heater ignited petrol vapours. Mr Pearson, 27, a van driver, of Oakenshaw, West Yorkshire, was draining his motorbike petrol tank.

Malcolm Saunders, deputy chief fire officer of West Yorkshire, said Mr Sanderson was bringing the case on the grounds that Mr Pearson could have reasonably foreseen that he would put firefighters at risk by indulging in an activity which could have caused a fire.

Mr Pearson was astonished to receive the solicitor's letter. He was severely burned in the fire and spent six weeks in hospital. He needed ten skin grafts on his legs and arms.

"I thought a fireman's job was to rescue you. It's like your doctor suing you because he catches your illness when you go to see him for a cure," he said.

Firefighters have been able to sue householders for some time. Stewart Charnley, of the Fire Brigades Union, said: "There are from time to time claims like this when a person has been negligent, but more often claims are made against the authority."

Public audit on opt-out school cash 'abandoned'

By Ben Preston
EDUCATION REPORTER

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, has abandoned key principles to safeguard the use of public money in grant-maintained schools, the local government financial watchdog said yesterday.

Sir David Cooksey, the Audit Commission chairman, emphasised the "enormous" potential for waste and said a decision to allow opt-out schools to appoint their own auditors was unprecedented.

Large sums were also being given to inexperienced governors and head teachers under local management, he said in the commission's annual report. Some of the £16.5 billion given to state schools annually might be misused or even misappropriated. The attack follows a series of reports, including one by the National Audit Office, expressing concern at weaknesses of financial controls in the grant-maintained sector.

Ministers expect half of the 3,900 secondary schools in England and Wales to have opted out of local education authority control by 1996.

Sir David said it was essential that the principles of public-sector auditing were properly applied. By removing the grant-maintained sector from the commission's remit in the new education bill, the department had regarded a well-tested system for comparing and contrasting the managerial performance of schools, he said.

Yardie gets life for Wild West killing

A TOP-ranking Yardie gunman who shot dead one man, injured another in the stomach and hit a woman when he fired in the air, was jailed for life at the Old Bailey yesterday.

The court heard that Leroy Leslie, 26, casually approached the two men at a party in Stoke Newington, northeast London, last November, ordered his girlfriend Linneth Lewis to hand him a gun from her handbag and opened fire.

Robin Grey QC, for the prosecution, said: "They were gunned down in cold blood. It was a scene more reminiscent of a Wild West saloon and the days of Al Capone."

Andre Blackman, 25, died almost immediately. His friend, Jeff Dixon, also 25, was shot in the stomach. Leslie threatened him with the gun again before hitting him over the head with the butt. Mr Grey said Leslie then fired the gun into the air several times, catching a woman in the thigh with one of the shots. Mr Dixon had made a full recovery.

He went on: "It is obviously a very dangerous man who is prepared to kill someone in cold blood in front of 190 or so people."

Lesley, of Hornsey, north London, an illegal immigrant known as Scarface because of a wound thought to have been sustained in a shoot-out with Jamaican police, rose to the top of the Yardie black mafia - based in the West Indies -



Leslie gunman with a violent reputation

because of his violent reputation. He had previous convictions in Britain for violence, drugs and firearms offences.

The court was told that he was member of a gang called the Raima Posse which police believe is involved in drug running and robberies.

Neither of his victims had known Yardie connections and after the trial, detectives said it remained a mystery why they were targeted.

Det Insp John McCullough said: "Motives put forward have ranged between a trivial argument between the men to a drugs deal that went wrong."

Leslie's co-defendant, Linneth May Lewis, 33, of Clapton, north London, was acquitted of murder.

Outside the court, a detective said: "The frequency with which Yardies carry guns is alarming. They have to be stopped."

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Group 4 guards will not be prosecuted over prisoner death

By RICHARD DUCE

SIX Group 4 security guards will not be prosecuted following the death of a remand prisoner who collapsed and later died while under escort from court to prison, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday.

A CPS spokesman said that there was insufficient evidence to pursue criminal proceedings over the death of Ernest Hogg, 38.

However, the guards will remain suspended from duty until the outcome of a prison service enquiry under Alex Marnoch, a former Metropolitan police commander.

Mr Hogg, charged with illegally importing cocaine, was found unconscious in the back of the Group 4 security van after a 50-mile drive from the magistrates' court at Rotham, South Yorkshire, to The Wolds remand prison near Hull, North Humberside, which is also run by the private security firm.

He died in hospital four days later, on May 8, and a post-mortem examination found he had died from brain damage caused by inhalation of vomit apparently caused by drinking a large amount of alcohol.

An inquest has still to determine how Mr Hogg obtained the drink. It is thought it was either smuggled into him in mineral water bottles

or was illegally manufactured inside the jail.

Theresa Clarke, Mr Hogg's solicitor who now acts for his family, said yesterday the CPS decision was not unexpected but it was still intended to press ahead with an action for damages against Group 4.

The exact nature of the civil action will not be determined until after the resumed inquest in Hull into the death of Mr Hogg, a father of two from Dundee, Tayside.

After his death in Hull Royal Infirmary, enquiries were carried out by Humberside police, the coroner, Group 4 and the prison service.

The CPS said yesterday: "Having studied the detailed and comprehensive file prepared by Humberside police,

we have concluded that there is insufficient evidence for any prosecution."

It will be up to Michael Howard, the home secretary, to decide whether to revoke the suspension of the Group 4 security guards' operating certificates.

A spokesman for the prison service said: "We have noted the CPS decision and now await Mr Marnoch's report. There is no indication when it will be completed. We are also waiting for the inquest to resume."

On the day Mr Hogg collapsed, he had been taken to the magistrates' court for a remand hearing and it is thought the alcohol may have travelled with him in personal property bags which were provided in case he was granted bail.

Miss Clarke has said that when she saw Mr Hogg at 11.45am, after the magistrates remanded him in custody, he was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

At 5pm, when the escort van arrived at The Wolds after dropping off prisoners at Hull prison, Mr Hogg was found unconscious. His condition had been noted during the stop at Hull by two security guards, both trained in first aid, but he was considered well enough to undertake the remainder of the journey.



Howard: will decide fate of the six guards

Car boot sales 'out of control as home for counterfeiters'

By ROBIN YOUNG

CAR boot sales are raging out of control as a happy hunting ground, not for bargain hunters, but for cheats, frauds and counterfeiters, according to trading standards officers.

Steve Playle, divisional trading standards officer for the London Borough of Havering, calls today for legislation requiring all boot sale operators to be licensed. He says they are no longer charitable events where private individuals sell unwanted items.

"They are highly organised businesses run by professional operators making serious money."

There are five boot sales in Havering, east London, every week throughout the summer. All are professionally run, and attract mostly professional traders. Officers' visits, Mr Playle says, "always reveal an array of infringements against all trading standards legislation."

Mr Playle, writing in *Trading Standards Review*, the official journal of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, says Havering's storerooms are "close to bursting point due to the quantity of goods that have been seized because they are fraudulent, dangerous, or both."

Yet enforcement of legislation has proved "a nightmare", says Mr Playle. "The main problems are: how do you get a genuine name and address from a seller of counterfeit goods; what do you do when a seller snatches your evidence, smashes it into a thousand pieces and threatens to cut your throat; how do you prove that boot vendors are acting in the course of trade or business; and how do you stop dealers in counterfeit goods smuggling away evidence when word goes round that trading standards are on the scene?"

Discussion with colleagues in other parts of the country has convinced Mr Playle that boot sales are out of control. He is calling for a system in which finds of counterfeit or dangerous products could lead to the revocation of a sale operator's licence.

Car boot sales are classed in law as *bona fide* markets, and local authorities can only seek injunctions against them on a day when a franchise market is already being held within a radius of six and two thirds of a mile. Under the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988, boot sales can be held for up to 14 days a year at any site without planning permission.

Trading standards officers believe that the present legislation completely thwarts their attempts to control the sales.

A private member's bill to regulate them may be introduced to the House of Commons in the autumn, but the officers are not optimistic about its chances of success.



Foot patrol: members of the Ramblers Association with illegal signs erected on a right of way at Farm Wood, Buckinghamshire

Ramblers urged to let their feet do the talking

By JOHN YOUNG

WALKERS are to be asked by the Ramblers Association to report all obstructions on public rights of way.

The appeal, to be launched tomorrow, is part of a campaign led by the Countryside Commission to ensure that the 140,000-mile network of paths is fully opened and properly maintained by the end of the century. It also aims to put pressure on county councils to take action

against recalcitrant landowners.

Tomorrow is the third anniversary of the Rights of Way Act, which imposed a duty on councils as highway authorities to ensure public footpaths are unobstructed. But progress has been patchy, and the commission fears that unless stronger action is taken to enforce the law it will fail to meet its target.

Last month, the commission asked for volunteers to take part in a survey to assess

the scale of the problem. But the survey will cover only sample areas of England and Wales, and the association believes that the only way to obtain a complete picture is by enlisting the co-operation of all path users.

"We urge anyone coming across a path problem to tell the association about it," John Trevelyan, the deputy director, said yesterday. "We will then approach the local authority responsible."

He said that problems could include ploughing across a path, standing crops, barbed wire, "Keep out" signs, built and buildings which obstruct the right of way. "Walking is Britain's most popular outdoor leisure activity and it is vitally important that the millions of people who enjoy walking in the countryside can do so without hindrance."

One difficulty was that people unfamiliar with the countryside lacked confidence and tended to use only the best known paths, which were clearly visible and well marked. As a result many smaller paths were little used and landowners could claim that as a pretext for not maintaining them.

The Ramblers Association has issued four leaflets advising the public of their rights and what action to take when faced with an obstruction. They are available from its offices at 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX (see appreciated).

Sweden goes on Major charm offensive

FROM NICK GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM



Swedes ask: "Who loves John Major?"

GIVEN the growing popular opposition to his policy of EC membership, Carl Bildt, Sweden's conservative prime minister, is hoping John Major can ease his nation's path into Europe during his visit, which began last night. Mr Bildt has staked his political future on his European policy and is struggling to convince a sceptical public that the sacrifices are worthwhile.

Mr Major's visit will be followed closely by those of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor and Francois Mitterrand, the French president. In each case Mr Bildt will be asking for their support.

Negotiations for admission were supposed to have been completed by Christmas, with Sweden becoming a full member in 1995. However, none of the contentious issues have been resolved. Mr Bildt knows that only political pressure from the leaders of the community's biggest countries can prevent long hold-ups.

Sweden's main political parties are united in their desire to join, but

opinion polls show 42 per cent of the population against EC membership and only 28 per cent in favour.

If Mr Bildt is to have any chance of reversing the polls his negotiators must come back from Brussels with the best possible deal, something that can only be achieved if he has the main community leaders on his side.

With this in mind, Swedish newspapers have christened the official visits as Sweden's "charm offensive", tailored to individual leaders. After it became known that Mr Major liked fireworks, a display was arranged. Helmut Kohl is going fishing; and on a recent visit Jacques Delors was taken by helicopter to the Arctic Circle.

Personally, it would appear Mr Major and Mr Bildt have little in common. Mr Bildt is from an old aristocratic family, an intellectual who is an expert on security matters. However, in political style they have much in common, sharing a belief in privatisation and lower taxes.

Builder in rocket case is cleared

A builder was yesterday cleared of firing a rocket through the letter box of a client after a dispute over £7,000 for work he had done on a house in Belgravia, southwest London.

Anthony Spencer, 48, from Warrington, Surrey, was found not guilty of mounting the attack on Charles Holland, 40, a stockbroker.

Mr Holland claimed he chased and caught Mr Spencer after the incident, in which his face was burned, in March this year. But Mr Spencer produced three witnesses to show that he had been at a Chelsea-Arsenal football match at the time.

Bark breaks flats plunge

A woman who fell ten storeys from her flat in Wigan, Greater Manchester, survived when she landed on newly-laid bark flower bed chippings.

Karen Street, 28, was "poorly but stable" in intensive care with internal injuries and a broken pelvis.

Baby murder

A woman, aged 18, and a man, aged 21, were helping police, who launched a murder enquiry following the death from head injuries of 15-month-old Rory England in Taunton, Somerset.

Boy drowns

Russell Ethelstone, 8, drowned after falling into a canal behind his home in Masebury March, Shropshire, while playing with his two brothers.

Rapist hunted

Police are hunting a man in his forties and with a badly pock-marked face who raped a 52-year-old woman after she had left her husband in a pub at Dartford, Kent.

Bomb danger

Bomb disposal experts worked to defuse an unexploded 1,000lb world war two bomb which had lain undetected in the grounds of Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex, for 50 years.

Model theft

Anthony Berridge, 55, had spent 3,000 hours over five years building a scale model of a Mirage jet when it was stolen from his home in Semington, Wiltshire.

Whistle stop

Passengers on a train held up by a points failure near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, went to the nearest pub at the suggestion of the guard, who blew the whistle when it was time to go.

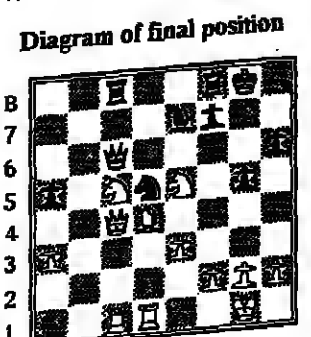
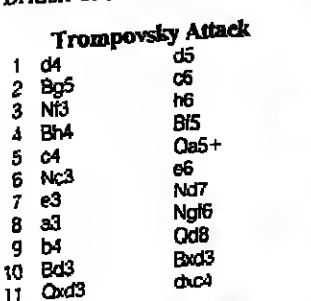
THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British Championship, Dundee

THE British Championship, held in the Sports Hall of the University of Dundee, reaches a climax this week. For further information ring the championship chess office on 0382 204377. Here is an early win by the British champion of the last two years, Julian Hodgson, who will be commenting at the forthcoming Kasparov-Short Championship Match in London. In this game Black attempts to break White's bind with a temporary sacrifice of a piece. However, he miscalculates and the temporary sacrifice turns into a permanent one.

White: J Hodgson
Black: McElligott
British Ch, Dundee 1993



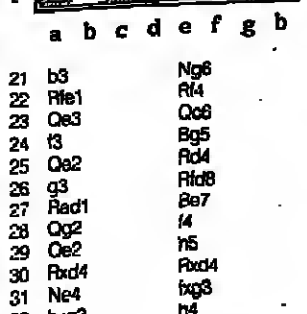
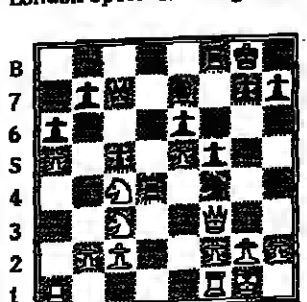
12	Ox4	a5	33	c3	Rd5
13	O-0	Bx7	34	f4	Ng3
14	b5	O-0	35	Qg4	Nh4
15	bxc6	bxc6	36	Nf4	Bx6
16	Nd4	c5	37	e4e	N5
17	dx5	Nx5	38	Nx5	Ox5
18	Bg3	Nx5	39	Ox5	Rx5
19	Nd1	Ox5	40	Rx5	Ox2
20	Nx5	Ox5	41	Qx2	Ox3
21	Rx1	Rx2	42	Rx2	Ox1+
22	Bx5	Nx5	43	Kg2	g6
23	Bd4	e5	44	Qg4+	Ng7
24	Nx5		45	Rx4	Ox4
			46	Kx3	Ox3+
			47	Kx2	Ox3
			48	Ox3	Ox7
			49	Ox4	O4
			50	Rx2	Kx8
			51	Rx4	Nx8
			52	Rx8	

Black resigns

Kasparov - Short

Continuing my occasional series of previous clashes between Short and Kasparov, I give a game from their 1987 Speed Challenge Match. We join the game in a critical position just after Black's 20th move. In the final position, White is still struggling to win, but Black lost the game by time forfeit.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Nigel Short
London Speed Challenge 1987



Junior Award

I will be offering a book prize for the best game played by any junior player (Under 18) in any section of the British Championships submitted to me at *The Times* no later than August 21. The winning game will be guaranteed publication in this column. All players aged 18 years or under competing in any section of the British Championship at Dundee should send their entries to me: c/o Championship Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Entries should include the moves of the game in algebraic notation plus an explanation of no more than 50 words as to why the chosen game should win.

World Championship

For attractive travel packages, in association with British Airways and Fortis Group hotels, to the Kasparov-Short World Chess Championship match at London's Savoy theatre in September and October ring Travelcoast on 081 744 9494.

Winning Move, page 44

For lling



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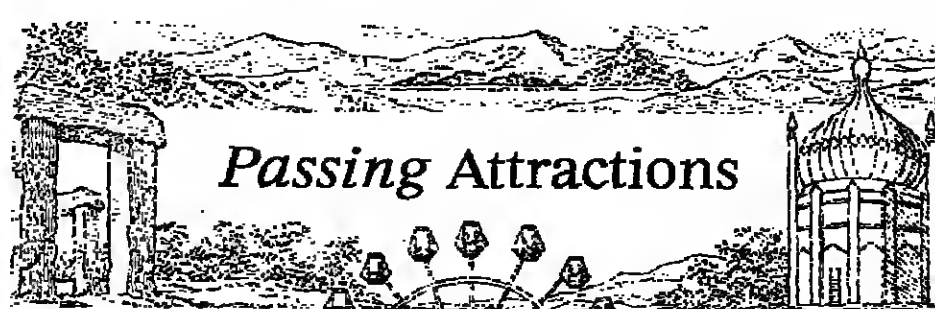
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Reining and pouring: a horse and cart mix with traffic on the wet streets outside Dublin's Trinity College



Passing Attractions

Dublin

Famous for? Guinness, James Joyce, political scandals and pubs.
 Appearance? A dowdy mistress. Georgian elegance surrounded and defeated by 1950s and 1960s concrete.
 Rose to fame? In 800s when the Vikings arrived.
 Made its name? When it became the first colonial capital to kick out the British.
 Best time to go? It rains all year, but spring and autumn are best for a long weekend.
 Choose cosy Buswells Hotel over expensive and overhyped upmarket establishments.
 How to relax in Dublin? Go to the pub/don't go to the pub (delete as appropriate). Dream about getting a divorce — still not legal in Ireland.
 Most famous residents? U2, Mary Robinson (the president) plus the writers Joyce, Beckett, O'Casey, Yeats, Beahan and Shaw, most of whom didn't like it and left.
 Most famous non-resident? Jack Charlton, honorary citizen and manager of the Irish football team; Bob Geldof.
 Sporting attractions? English visitors trying to pronounce Dun Laoghaire, rugby internationals and Gaelic games.
 Local speciality? Conversation, tall tales and the "raic". The smooth Dublin brogue. The use of expletives to divide multi-syllabic words.
 Food? Coddle and Guinness. Boiled sausage, onions, bacon and potatoes combined as a light stew. Guinness and oysters.
 Worth visiting? Killiney, Dalkey or Howth. Anywhere in co. Wicklow.

Worst thing about Dublin? IRA claims responsibility for its operations in Britain from Dublin. The colour of the city's buses.
 Best thing about Dublin? That's as far as it's northern troubles go.
 Done anything to spruce up its image recently? Abolished smog with a clean air act. New writers' museum. New "left bank" restoration of Temple Bar on south side of the Liffey and new concert hall.
 Most likely visitor? The pope. Most likely protestor? Sinead O'Connor, who tore up his picture on television.
 Least likely visitor? The Rev Ian Paisley.
 Dress code? Young girls wear black. Everyone else needs an umbrella.

Cervical cancer vaccine is likely soon

By Gillian Bowditch
 SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS believe the development of a vaccine against cancer of the cervix, the most common cancer suffered by women, may not be far away.
 Dr Harald zur Hausen, who first made the link between cancer of the cervix and papilloma 10 years ago, said yesterday he was optimistic that a vaccine would be developed and that clinical trials could start simultaneously in a number of countries.

Dr zur Hausen, of the German Cancer Centre in Heidelberg, told the International Congress of Virology in Glasgow yesterday: "I am relatively optimistic that a vaccine will be developed but I would not like to put a timescale on it."

A vaccine for cancer of the cervix could save hundreds of thousands of lives. In Britain, despite screening programmes, 2,000 women die of the disease each year. In other parts of the world, where there are no screening programmes, it kills a hundred times as many women in proportion to the population.

Although one in five women harbour the papilloma virus, relatively few go on to develop cancer. Dr zur Hausen said: "Just 3 per cent of women with the virus most commonly associated with cancer develop the disease within 45 years of infection." The reason for this is that the virus needs some other agent to stimulate cancerous development, which could be smoking, exposure to radiation or exposure to some chemicals, he said.

Dr Joan Macnab, of the Institute of Virology in Glasgow, believes one of these co-factors could be exposure to the herpes simplex virus which causes genital herpes. Dr zur Hausen disputes this and says women with herpes simplex virus and papilloma virus are not necessarily going to develop cancer of the cervix.

Dr zur Hausen said that 15 per cent of all cancers were linked to viruses. Early results of inoculation programmes in the Gambia, Taiwan and China against hepatitis B, responsible for some cancer of the liver, suggested that the high incidence of liver cancer in these areas would be greatly reduced.

Benn gives British Library his hoard of political archives

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

AS THE world awaits the publication of Lady Thatcher's memoirs, scholars will soon have unlimited access to a far larger source of political history, Tony Benn's archives.

After years of discussion, Mr Benn is to give his mammoth collection of political papers to the British Library, chosen above a variety of institutions, including the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

At present housed in seven sheds in his garden and at an office in London, the papers comprise all Mr Benn's speeches since 1946, hundreds of Labour party documents, conference reports, press cuttings and pamphlets.

There are 13 boxes of political correspondence alone and, of course, the Benn diaries, transcribed from the original tapes and described by Mr Benn as the "spinal column" to the whole archive.

The original political diaries are about eight times longer than the published version, the fifth and final volume of which appeared last year.

The value of the papers to historians of 20th-century government, industrial policy and labour history is widely acknowledged. Both the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts and the Public Record Office have recognised their importance.

Mr Benn is modest, however: "Five sheds is what happens when you file all your waste paper," he said. "You build a public library by accident. It is not history, journalism or memoirs, but raw material. There are gaps and important events are missed because I am concentrating on specific areas."

At the moment scholars can book appointments to visit Mr Benn's house and shuffle

through the overflowing boxes. Dissertations on the IMF crisis, shipbuilding and the origins of the Giro cheque have already benefited from Mr Benn's relentless filing.

But the British Library will allow far wider access; the constituency correspondence alone will provide an insight into social as well as political history when students are allowed a free rein.

The library has negotiated to take the papers when Mr Benn retires, but he would like the huge task of indexing to begin soon. The portion studied by the library comprised more than 502,000 leaves and will take two people two years to index at an estimated cost of £100,000. At present the filing system is known only to Mr Benn, his memory acting as a guide.

Full of controversy, page 14

New Timex workers face dole

By Gillian Bowditch
 SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

WORKERS hired by Timex in Dundee to stand in for staff sacked in February could be back on the dole within two months.

The company confirmed yesterday that it had paid off 93 of the replacement workers and that the Dundee factory could shut by October, two months ahead of schedule.

A Timex spokesman said the remaining 170 hourly-paid workers at the Dundee plant were expected to go as soon as customers for the factory's printed circuit boards found other suppliers.

Sacked shop stewards held a three-hour meeting yesterday at which they pledged to intensify their international campaign against the company. After the meeting, Charlie Malone, one of the shop stewards, said: "Timex has lost. They are getting out of Dundee as quickly as possible to limit damage."

Trawler smashes sea salvage record

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A SMALL Scottish company working from a converted trawler has smashed the record for deep-sea recovery by raising copper ingots from a wreck 4,200 feet down off Cape Finisterre, Spain.

Captain Alec Crawford and his crew of three hope to raise the entire 7,300 ton cargo, worth £10 million, that went down with the *Francois Vieljeux* on February 14, 1979. They are working at a depth three times greater than any previous salvage operations, battling against rough seas and strong currents, using remote-control techniques from the wheelhouse of *The Redeemer*, an 86ft fishing trawler which was itself salvaged by Capt Crawford in 1982.

This is the culmination of two and a half years' hard work, he said. "Not only have we designed and developed the entire recovery system, but also located the wreck, cleared all the heavy debris and hatch beams that obstructed access to the holds, and removed the overburden that covered the copper. This ushers in a new era in remote underwater work."

The ingots are 4ft 6in long, by 5in square and weigh about 280lb. The first was raised last week by a remotely-controlled grab, from a depth greater than the height of Ben Nevis.

The ingots were insured, but Deep Water Recovery and Exploration, the company run by Capt Crawford and his wife Moya, will be entitled to the lion's share of the value. The salvage is being carried out by a grab lowered on a cable armoured against sea pressure. The cable also sends up images from a camera, enabling the grab to be moved by small adjustments of the boat's position, controlled by lines attached to six mooring buoys. By lashing and shortening the lines, the ship can be moved precisely, so the grab can be placed to within 12in.

Fry-up ends jail protest

A PRISON director disclosed yesterday that a two-hour sit-in by inmates was halted after he agreed to provide them with a bacon and bean supper.

Fifty prisoners staged the protest in their canteen at the privately-run Blakenhurst prison in Redditch, Worcestershire, claiming that vegetarians were being fed meat and Moslem inmates had been denied Halal food.

David Brooke, the director, said that the demonstration, which ended late on Monday night, had been peaceful. "There was no injury or threats to any member of staff."

He insisted that food in the prisoners' dining room catered for the special dietary requirements of Moslems and vegetarians. He said he believed that the trouble may have been related to the impending removal of ten prisoners due to be transferred to other jails but who wanted to stay.

The prison was back to normal yesterday.

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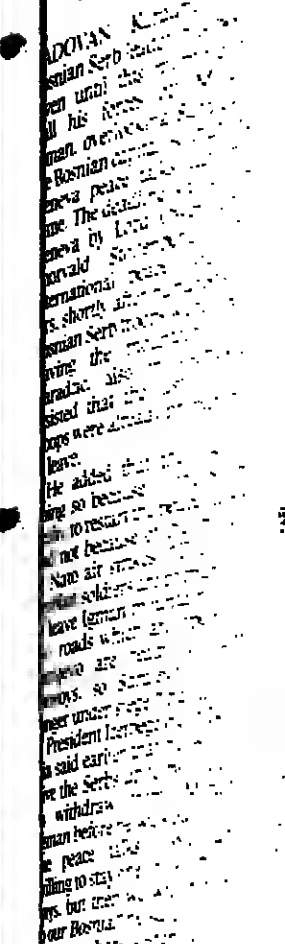
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DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
AND JAMES BOWEN



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**EYEWITTS
SARAJE**



By Joel P.

"I was so busy that day that I was not able to go to the hospital," he said. "I was so busy that day that I was not able to go to the hospital," he said. "I was so busy that day that I was not able to go to the hospital," he said.

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Owen sets deadline for Serb forces to quit Mount Igman

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
AND JAMES BONE

RADOVAN Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has been given until this morning to pull his forces off Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, so that the Geneva peace talks can resume. The deadline was set in Geneva by Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the international peace negotiators, shortly after hundreds of Bosnian Serb troops were seen leaving the mountain. Dr Karadzic, also in Geneva, insisted that the last of his troops were already preparing to leave.

He added that they were doing so because of the Serb desire to restart the peace talks and not because of the threat of Nato air strikes. "The last Serbian soldiers are preparing to leave Igman mountain, the two roads which are open to Sarajevo are ready to get convoys, so Sarajevo is no longer under siege," he said. President Izetbegovic of Bosnia said earlier that he would give the Serbs up to two days to withdraw from Mount Igman before he walked out of the peace talks. "We are willing to stay one or two more days, but then we will return to our Bosnia," he said.

In New York yesterday the

Radovan Karadzic insists his forces will withdraw because he wants peace and not because of Nato threats of force. The siege of Sarajevo, he claims, is now over



Karadzic insisted his troops were leaving

United Nations announced that it had completed arrangements for Nato to start flying air sorties to protect peace-keeping troops in Bosnia. But Joe Sills, the chief UN spokesman, added a caveat, saying the arrangements were now being tested, which would take several days.

Diplomats say the UN now has enough forward air controllers (target spotters) in

place in Bosnia to guide any Nato air attack. New communications systems have been set up for some far-flung UN peacekeepers to warn them of impending air attacks and these have to be tested before General Jean Cot, the UN commander, declares a "state of readiness" for the strikes to begin.

In Geneva, John Mills, spokesman for Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg, welcomed a military agreement reached among Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats in Sarajevo early yesterday that would be part of an overall peace package. "This agreement is enormously important," he said. "It means that the current peace process has achieved agreement with the political and military leaderships of the three parties on all aspects of the settlement except for the map."

Mr Mills reacted angrily, however, to suggestions by The Washington Post and the Bosnian government that, as co-chairman, Lord Owen had been pressuring the Bosnian presidency into dividing Sara-



On the spot: Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the special representative of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, arriving in Sarajevo yesterday

jevo with the Bosnian Serbs. Mr Mills said the negotiators had made an agreement with the Serbian and Bosnian government delegations to postpone arrangements on the future of Sarajevo for up to a year.

The Geneva process yesterday came under fierce criticism from Marshall Harris, the former US State Department official who resigned last week in protest over the West's

inaction in Bosnia. Mr Harris demanded an immediate end to the arms embargo against Bosnia and urged air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs. Speaking in London, he also repeated earlier calls for the immediate resignation of Lord Owen, accusing him of failing to act impartially.

Lord Owen was also criticised by Professor Adrian Hastings of Leeds University, who said the role of the

European Community's envoy was a "moral disgrace".

Members of the Bosnian delegation in Geneva insisted that they had been under unprecedented pressure from the co-chairman to accede to the Serbian delegation's demands to divide Sarajevo. "The people of Sarajevo do not want to divide their city but the international community is abdicating its moral and legal responsibilities on this

issue," said Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister.

The Bosnian Serbs propose to build the capital of the Bosnian Serb republic in Ditch, a suburb of Sarajevo, leaving the Muslims with a secure access route out of inner Sarajevo. The Muslims want Unprofor (the UN protection force) to disarm the city and, after a "cooling-off period", allow Sarajevo's citizens to

determine the city's status.

A document released yesterday by the Bosnian government delegation, *The Abandonment of the London Conference Principles*, said Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg had tried to coerce the Bosnian Muslims into accepting Bosnian Serb proposals to divide Sarajevo.

Victims evacuated, page 1
Diary, page 15

'She will die — it was as I said, the day before it was too late'

Doctor Edo Jaganjac has seen thousands of war wounded in the past 16 months. Some he has forgotten, some will be with him forever. Irma Hadzimarovic is one of the latter.

Sitting on a hospital cot with his legs bent up in front of him, Edo is visibly disturbed by Irma's plight. The young doctor rests in the sunlit room, reflecting, smoking a precious cigarette donated by some relief worker or a journalist.

Of all the hundreds of people I have met in Sarajevo, there are few who know the horror of war like Edo. I reminded him yesterday of a conversation we had last New Year's Eve, in the same lounge. The temperature was well below freezing.

"After that I realised we will keep on doing this as long as we have to, because we have no other choice," he replied, stubbing his cigarette out in the ashtray.

Day after day, without end, Edo battles for people's lives without adequate equipment. In the same way that the arms embargo has denied Sarajevo the means to defend itself, the siege has kept from Edo the precious tools to save lives.

Unshaven, his sandy hair awry, Edo said he had been unable to sleep the previous night, his mind racing with reflections. So yesterday, when I found him, he wanted to talk about Irma. There is little time for therapy in Sarajevo.

"She will die. It was as I said, it was too late. Even the day before it was too late," Edo said. "The day before [she was evacuated] you could still see the life in her. In her eyes, you could see the pain and the fear. Then, the morning she left, it was all gone," he said, falling silent.

"I've cried several times in this war over patients," he went on. "But that is not the way you save a patient. You must be intellectual. You develop a system to remain cold, but it is impossible to always be cold."

Opening his own wounds, he continued: "I am thinking about her most of the time. Just because you are a doctor

doesn't mean you are not a man. When you see a child bleeding, you think of your own children. She was too young to know what Muslim or Serb is. She was too young to know the difference between war and peace. She didn't even know her mother was dead."

The last time Edo saw his own two daughters, they were aged one and five — the older the same age as Irma. That was on May 18 1992, just after the start of the war, when he put them on a convoy of several thousand women and children leaving the city. They are now in Prague with his wife.

Two months ago he received a video cassette of the girls from his wife. He borrowed a generator and

video player, and bought some fuel on the black market to watch the tape. "I've lost a part of their lives that I can never imagine", Edo said, looking up with a smile that

trembled. "I ask then, how much is a life? How much does a life cost? Tell me." He said there are more than 400 more patients who are waiting to be evacuated. Between 70 and 80 people were now blind because the hospitals do not have the equipment, or the electricity to run it, which would have saved their sight.

But it was to be the subject of Irma that he returned. Finally, bidding me to stay a few more minutes, he told of the day, almost two weeks ago, when they brought her to the hospital. "You could see her big open eyes, very scared and very curious," Edo said, staring me in the face. "When she arrived her pulse was very quick, and then it started to go slower and slower. You could see her life going from her. I've seen hundreds of people die, but to actually see her dying..."

As I left, a young male nurse stopped me. Could I get him out of the city? "I was born here, but this is not my town anymore."

Everyone in Sarajevo hopes to be saved. Everyone welcomes the new Anglo-Swedish initiative, Operation Irma. They wonder if it will come too late.

Serbs withdraw, page 1
Father's plea, page 2

EYEWITNESS SARAJEVO



By Joel Brand

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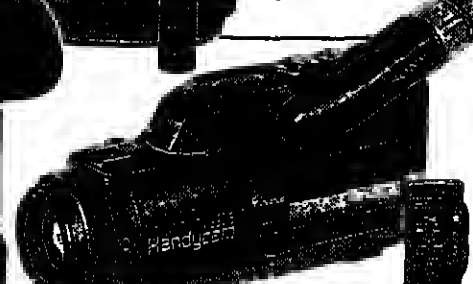
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Nazi-hunters split on whether to call off the hounds



Wiesenthal: his SS quarry died under a false name

ISRAEL'S high court has not yet decided whether John Demjanjuk should be tried on fresh charges of being a war criminal, but most officials and diplomats believe he will be set free this month. If the man wrongly accused of being the Treblinka death camp's "Ivan the Terrible" is released, it would raise a critical question for Germany, Israel and, indeed, the world community: has the hunt for Nazi war criminals run its course?

Mr Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born retired car worker from Ohio, was suspected by Israeli prosecutors of being a psychopathic concentration camp guard who chopped off ears and breasts and shattered skulls with iron rods. He was extradited to Israel to stand trial on the basis of the testimony of nine camp survivors.

He was found guilty in 1988 and sentenced to death. But his conviction was called into doubt during the appeal process. How reliable is eye-witness testimony 50 years after the event? Both perpetrators

If trials against alleged Nazis are going to fail, dedicated anti-Nazis may take justice into their own hands, Roger Boyes believes

and victims of Nazi crimes are often in their eighties. The experience of survivors may have branded their memories with the faces of brutal guards and officers — or it may have fundamentally disturbed their judgment.

The Demjanjuk verdict, and a virtual admission of defeat by Israel, has made Nazi-hunters hesitate to base a legal case solely on identification by witnesses. To bolster their case, investigators now have to make frequent visits to East European archives.

Even that has its pitfalls, however. Anti-communist partisans in Ukraine, Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe were sometimes jailed or executed by the communist authorities after the war on the basis of trumped-up charges of

Nazi collaboration; some documents were forged for show trials.

Thirty years ago, when the Israelis tracked down Adolf Eichmann, the problem was basically finding the man and extracting him from his hiding place, usually in South America. Today the question of identification and the finding of convincing legal evidence is of paramount concern.

The cost of war-crimes trials has greatly increased while the cost of failure, in this case releasing Mr Demjanjuk from custody, is immeasurable. He is only the second alleged Nazi criminal, after Eichmann, to be tried by Israel; and this time Israel got it wrong.

Hundreds of other alleged war criminals still live quietly in Western countries. Mostly they were

not senior members of the Nazi hierarchy and some would barely make the third division. But Nazi-hunters are adamant that all of them, however minor, have blood on their hands.

Maurice Papon, the Bordeaux police chief during the Nazi years, was alleged to have organised deportations, but the French authorities are still deciding how to proceed against him. The doubts now stirred by the Demjanjuk trial have further muddled the water. Paul Touvier, the former militia chief of Lyons, allegedly responsible for the murder of seven Jewish children, is expected to go on trial in France this year.

But the most sensitive cases are the alleged criminals from the Baltic states. In 1990 Lithuania rehabilitated thousands of people convicted by Soviet courts after the war, including many identified as war criminals by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Jerusalem.

Under pressure from Israel, the Vilnius government cancelled a

few rehabilitations. Now those accused of Nazi crimes can argue not only that eye-witness testimony against them is unreliable but that the documents have been forged by the KGB as part of a campaign to stamp out Baltic nationalism.

On the whole, host countries of these controversial Baltic refugees seem to be willing to give them the benefit of the doubt rather than risk another Demjanjuk trial. Nowadays the task of Nazi-hunters usually is to announce the death of their quarry. Simon Wiesenthal, himself 84 years old, recently discovered that Anton Burger, deputy commandant of Theresienstadt camp, died aged 79 in Germany two years ago under a false name.

Others unaccounted for may well be dead. Heinrich Müller, head of the Gestapo, would be 91 if he is still alive. Alois Brunner, Eichmann's assistant, may have died last year in Damascus, or he may have changed his identity and moved to another country. In any

case, he would be well into his eighties.

Some Nazi-hunters, such as Tuvia Friedman, believe it is time to call an end to the hunt. Serge and Beate Klarsfeld see that there is a role in identifying war criminals, even if nothing happens to them in the courts. There is some danger, though, in that approach. The Klarsfelds played a part in identifying René Bousquet, the Vichy police chief, who was shot dead by a disturbed publicity-seeker in June before his trial.

The Demjanjuk case has built its own frustrations. If trials against alleged Nazis and collaborators are going to collapse because of the weakness of eye-witness testimony, then some dedicated anti-Nazis are going to take justice into their own hands.

In any case, such Nazi-hunters as Efraim Zuroff in Jerusalem are determined to continue to detect murders in other wars and to show that the victims of Nazi Germany's crimes have not been forgotten.

Israel's law chief rejects call for Demjanjuk retrial

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JOHN Demjanjuk, the Ohio car worker acquitted of being "Ivan the Terrible", the Treblinka death camp guard, came a step closer to freedom yesterday when Israel's attorney-general recommended that he should not be retried for other Nazi war crimes.

In a turbulent and emotionally-charged hearing in the Israeli high court in Jerusalem, Holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and right-wing Israelis demanded that the state begin new proceedings against Mr Demjanjuk, on documentary evidence that he served as an SS guard in three Nazi camps.

However, Yosef Harish, the attorney-general, recommended "with a heavy heart" that the man acquitted by the Israeli supreme court of being the sadistic gas chamber operator at the Treblinka death camp, be set free, from his cell in the Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv.

"I have reached the conclusion that there is no point bringing Demjanjuk before the court for new proceedings

... We have no choice but to deport him from Israel based on the deportation order issued against him," said Mr Harish.

The state prosecutor was concerned that a retrial might contravene basic judicial principles, that a defendant cannot be tried twice on the basis of the same evidence. Also, legal experts pointed out that Mr Demjanjuk was stripped of his US citizenship and extradited to Israel specifically to stand trial for being "Ivan the Terrible". Israel would also be in violation of its extradition treaty with America if it charged Mr Demjanjuk for separate offences.

However, petitioners to the court insisted that an SS identity card and other Nazi documents proved that Mr Demjanjuk had served as a *wachmann* (guard) in Poland at the Trawniki training camp and the Sobibor death camp, where 250,000 Jews were murdered, and later as a guard at the Flossenbürg concentration camp in Germany.

"As long as Demjanjuk was

a *wachmann* in Sobibor and Trawniki, he is responsible for killing thousands of Jews," said Israel Yehzekel, a petitioner whose parents were murdered at Treblinka, and who served two years in prison for throwing acid at Yoram Shefiel, Mr Demjanjuk's Israeli defence lawyer. "How can it be that here in Israel they free the murderer of our people?"

In spite of the emotional pleas, Mr Shefiel said he was confident that the attorney-general's recommendation would be accepted by the court and that his client would be set free within the coming days, possibly as early as tomorrow.

However, Mr Demjanjuk's legal saga will still remain unresolved, since he faces a separate court battle in America to win the right to return to his home in Cleveland, Ohio. An American appeals court in Cincinnati ruled last week that he should be allowed back to take part in hearings on the validity of his 1986 extradition, but the US justice department is trying to prevent his return.



Anguished appeal: an Orthodox Jew protests outside Israel's high court yesterday while judges considered whether John Demjanjuk, acquitted recently of war crimes, should face a second trial. The attorney-general told the court the government wants the matter dropped

Chechen gangs blamed as Moscow 'mafia' puts the bite on business

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

EIGHT people have been killed in the past week in Moscow in two separate gangland attacks, the latest in a long series that has shaken Moscow this year.

Colonel Vasilii Kuptsov, the deputy head of the Moscow investigation department, yesterday accused Chechen and other Caucasian criminal groups of being responsible for the escalation of violence.

He called for a special visa system to be introduced in order to stop such criminals entering Russia. Such a move would worsen Russian relations with its own north Caucasian republics and increase fears of state-sponsored racism among the huge Caucasian minorities in Russia's main cities. Some towns have already seen pogroms directed against alleged Caucasian criminals and black marketers.

In yesterday's attack, three people were shot dead on the premises of a Moscow firm in what police described as a professional assassination. Last Friday five people were killed and a sixth critically injured in an attack on the "Aquarius" firm in Dmitrova Street, a few hundred yards

from the Kremlin. Automatic weapons and grenades were used, and the attackers drove up in BMW cars.

Police described this attack as "a conflict between commercial structures" involving an unpaid £67,000 debt. They arrested three men from the Lyubertsy suburb of Moscow, home to a notorious Russian gang.

Even more sinister is the

progress mafia-like groups are making towards seizing control of the heights of the new Russian private economy. Last month the Russian Banks Association told President Yeltsin that ten top bankers have been murdered and many more threatened as criminal groups try to seize control of banks.

This increasingly visible violence has led to a growth of

racism among Russians. Above all, they identify "the mafia" with the Chechens.

This Caucasian nation of less than a million people has earned fame for its struggle for independence from Russia, and for providing two of Russia's most prominent politicians, Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, and General Djokar Dudayev, president of Chechnya.



Off the menu: suspected Caucasian drug dealers are arrested in a Moscow cafe

Undaunted French cling to 1999 as target for monetary union

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the French prime minister, is to meet Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, on August 26 to discuss the timetable for monetary union.

News of the meeting came shortly after Alain Juppé, the French foreign minister, insisted again yesterday that Europe stick to its original timetable for monetary union. "Europe has taken a step backwards; now we have to take two paces forward," M Juppé said on radio. "As regards the final phase of monetary union, we should keep the target of 1999."

He said close co-operation between France and Germany remained the foundation of European construction. "We must re-open the building site of Europe, not hand it over to the demolition-men who are rubbing their hands with glee these days, but to the builders."

He confirmed that a special EC summit meeting was scheduled for October. M Juppé's

remarks followed comments by Alain Lamassoure, France's junior minister for European affairs, who called for the second stage of monetary union — the creation of the European Monetary Institute — to go ahead next year. M Lamassoure said Europe had in the past used the momentum from a crisis to move forward.

On Monday Chancellor Kohl emphasised his commitment to monetary union but insisted that none of the strict conditions for countries to meet should be eased. "If this has the consequence ... that the timetable now envisaged is delayed by one or two years — and I don't know this, no one knows this — then I ask: what does that change in the basic course?" he said.

Yesterday, the Bank of France cut its overnight repo rate — the rate at which it offers unlimited overnight borrowing to commercial banks — by 50 basis points to 25 per cent.

Business News, page 23

Announcement

HERNIA

We would like to make it entirely clear that it was **The British Hernia Centre** which featured in the BBC 1 Television Programme **Doc Martin's Casebook** on 4th August and not any other clinics now adopting similar names, or who have advertised with reference to the programme.

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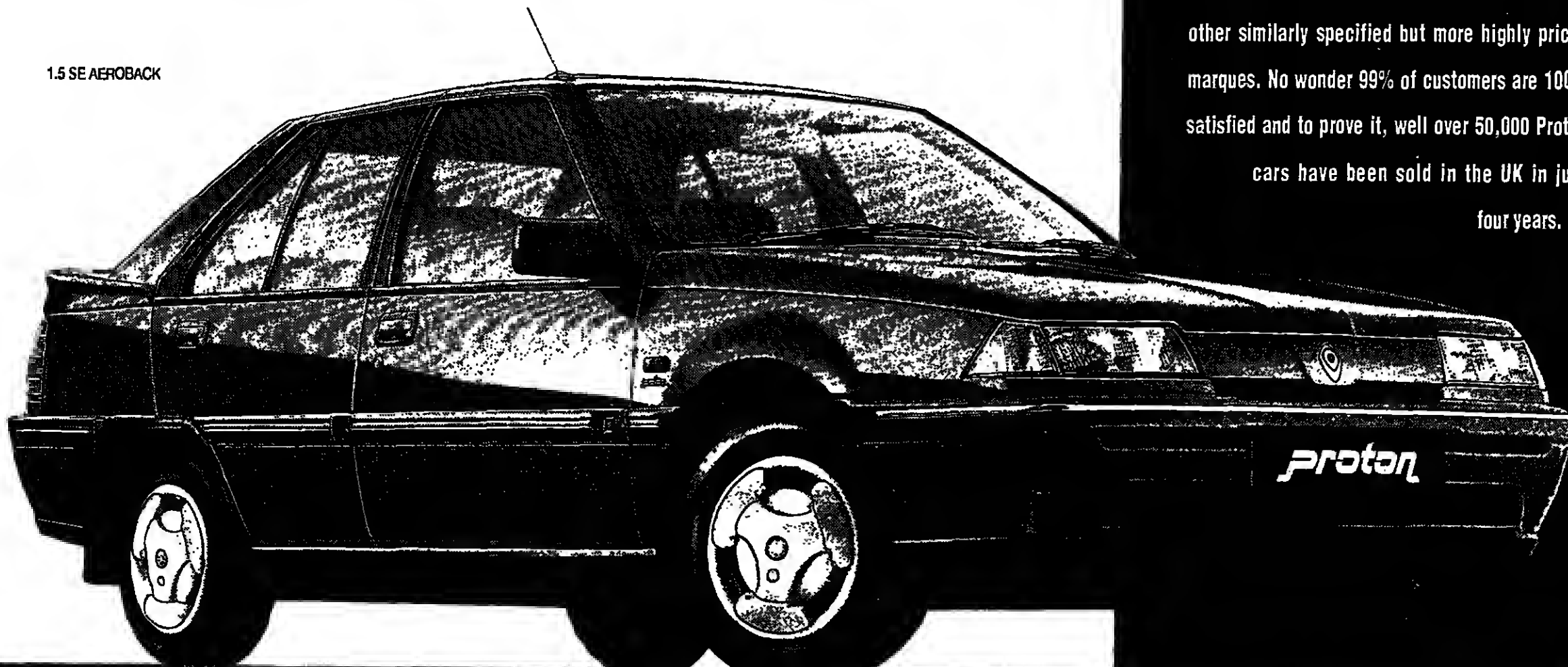
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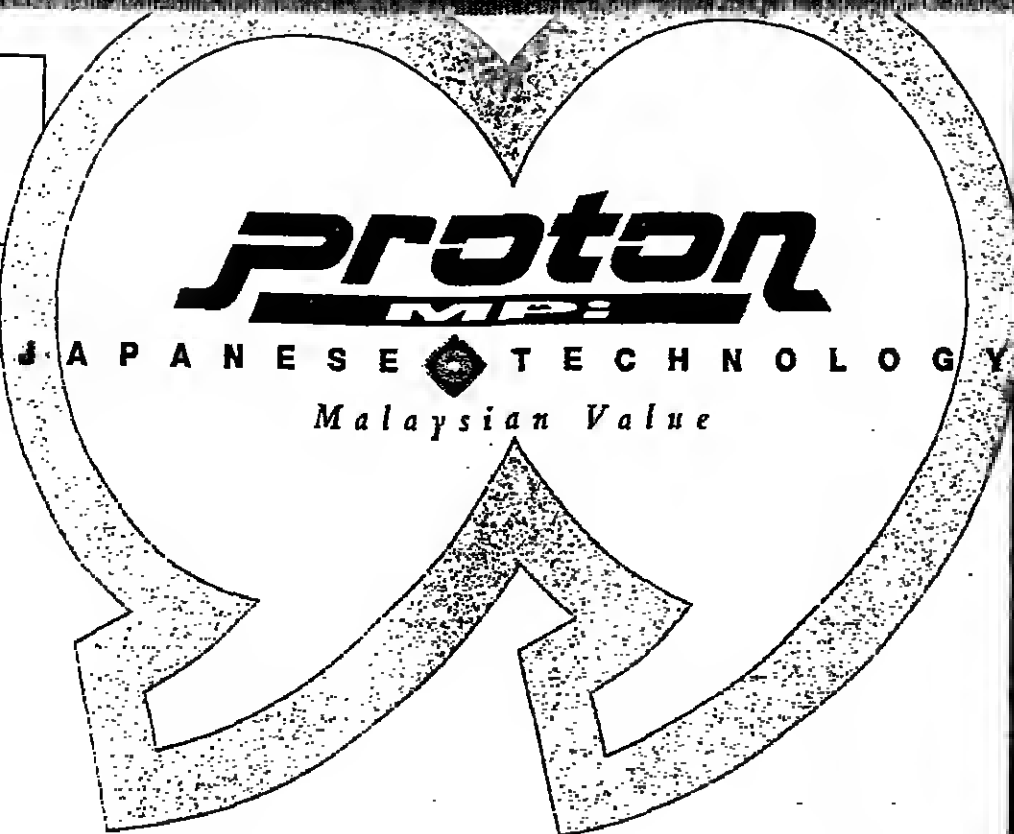
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Pope to
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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Clinton
toughens
gun laws**

Washington

President Clinton

has signed a law

that will make it

harder for

gun owners to

buy guns

without a

background

check.

The law

also bans

gun sales to

people with

mental

problems.

Clinton

signed the

law on

Monday.

The law

will take

effect

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Pontiff expected to confront US president in Colorado on moral agenda

Pope takes message to the young at Catholic Woodstock

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN DENVER, COLORADO



Elders: appointment outraged traditionalists

WHEN the Pope arrives in Denver today, at the start of a four-day celebration of youth, he will be greeted by hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic young Roman Catholics, but also by a church that is bitterly divided over the pontiff's stance on issues such as contraception, abortion and the ordination of women.

Immediately after he touches down, the Pope will meet President Clinton for the first time for a private, 45-minute talk in which they are expected to discuss world problems such as the war in Bosnia. In other respects, the two men may find they have little in common, given Mr Clinton's vocal support for feminists, gay rights and abortion.

Many traditional American Catholics are still fuming at the President's nomination of Dr Jocelyn Elders as surgeon-general, who last year attacked the anti-abortion lobby as the work of "a celibate, male-dominated church" in the midst of "a love affair with the foetus".

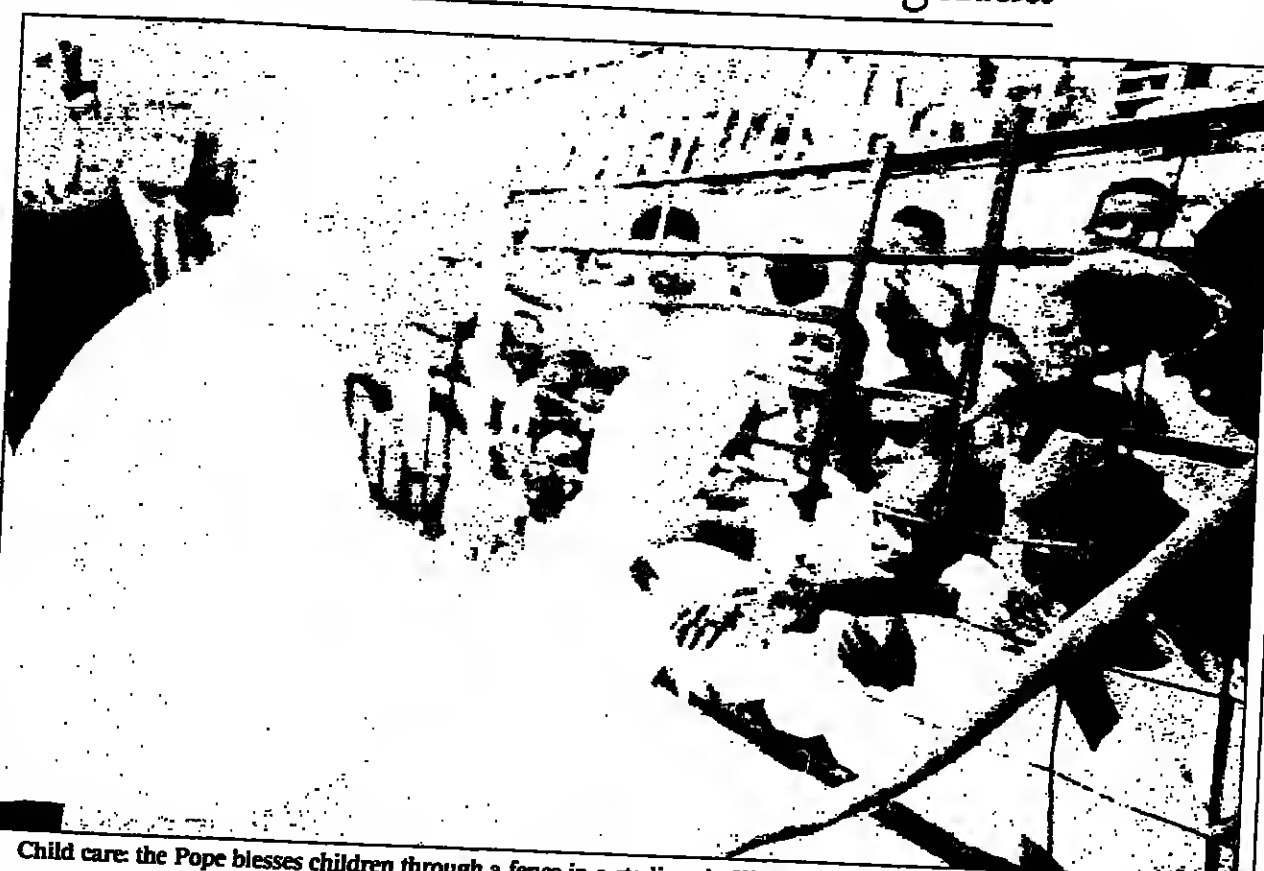
Long before setting out from Rome, the Pope made it clear he did not intend to dilute his conservative message, either

view on abortion to the president himself.

This will be the Pope's third visit to America, his shortest (taking place exclusively in Colorado) and, with doubts surrounding the health of the 73-year-old pope, many American Catholics expect it may well be his last. Yesterday, the Pope arrived in Mérida, Mexico, for his first visit to the country since the Vatican and the Mexican government resumed diplomatic ties last year.

America represents a core constituency for the Catholic church and a crucial testing-ground for the modern faith. A quarter of the American population, 59 million people, are Catholic. These provide more than a third of the Vatican's \$178 million (£120 million) annual budget, and more than half the money needed to sustain Catholic missions around the world.

The Pope's advisers have intimated that his American visit will be used as an opportunity to bolster the Vatican's traditionalist stance, to recruit and encourage young believers and to restate the Pope's position on sexual be-



Child care: the Pope blesses children through a fence in a stadium in Kingston, Jamaica, before leaving for Mexico

haviour, in advance of the forthcoming encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* (the splendour of truth).

However, according to a poll released this week, 79 per cent of American Catholics say they follow their own consciences rather than Vatican dogma on questions of morality. 84 per cent reject the papal ban on birth control; 76 per cent favour permitting priests to marry; 63 per cent would allow women to be ordained and, perhaps most remark-

ably, 58 per cent disagreed with the papal ban on all abortions.

In the past ten years the number of Americans who consider themselves Catholics has remained steady, but the proportion of these attending Mass on a regular basis has declined sharply. When John Paul II first visited America in 1979, an estimated 2.4 million people turned out in Boston to see him; in 1987, when he toured the south and west of the country, the crowds were

notably smaller. Organisers optimistically predict that as many as half a million people could turn out to a public open-air Mass just outside Denver on Sunday.

This week's celebrations have been billed by organisers as a "Catholic Woodstock", complete with a camping trip, music, movies and an overnight vigil. "Youth" is here defined as people between 13 and 39 and the population of Denver is expected to double for the week.

While debate over Catholic dogma continues to ferment, the Pope still enjoys the sort of celebrity status in America reserved for Hollywood actors. While many Catholics may question his edicts, 73 per cent, according to the latest poll, approve of the way he handles his role.

At least 170,000 young Catholics from 70 countries have travelled to Denver for World Youth Day 1993.

Still pontificating, page 16

Castro nicked by Steel attack

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba returned to Havana yesterday after a week-long Latin American trip with a flea in his ear from Sir David Steel and barely enough fuel to get home.

Before returning, Dr Castro took a surprise detour to Colombia to visit Gabriel García Márquez, the novelist and long-time friend, and to hold "serious talks" with President Gaviria of Colombia and Javier Solana, the Spanish foreign minister, about economic and political reforms in Cuba.

Dr Castro found himself almost stranded in Cartagena after petrol companies refused to refuel his two planes. His critics were cheered by a full-page advertisement in the Colombian daily *El Tiempo*, signed by foreign politicians including Sir David Steel, the former British Liberal party leader, urging him to stop "forcing Cubans to make the sad choice between Marxism-Leninism and death". Another paper published an open letter to him from 250 Spanish and Latin American MPs calling for his resignation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton toughens gun laws

Washington: President Clinton has introduced a tough new anti-crime package promising more police, gun-control laws and an extension of the federal death penalty (Wolfgang Munchau writes).

The package includes \$3.4 billion (£2.3 billion) for 50,000 of the 100,000 extra police officers he promised in his campaign, while the most controversial element will be the imposition of a five-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns, to permit checks into the buyer's background, and a ban on assault weapons.

Penalties for gun offences will be tightened, as will be the licensing rules for gun dealers.

Russians held

Dushanbe: Islamic guerrillas captured four Russian border guards and a Kazakh officer in a remote Tajikistan region and took them to Afghanistan, officials said. (AP)

Women lead

Nicosia: The Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen Khalq, said it had chosen an all-women council to lead its fight to overthrow the Iranian government. (Reuters)

Spy enquiry

Tbilisi: Eldar Gogoladze, Georgia's head of security, has been suspended pending an investigation into the shooting of Fred Woodruff, an identified CIA agent. (AP)

Navel embargo

Pertis: Officials have told a restaurant to use plates, and not to serve waitresses, to serve dessert, after inviting diners to eat fruit salad and cream off a girl's stomach. (Reuters)

Minister weighs in on sexist sumos

FROM HUGH LEVINSON IN TOKYO

TWO days into her job, Ryoko Akamatsu, the Japanese education minister, has picked a fight with the ultra-conservative Sumo Association for excluding women from the committee that chooses the sport's grand champions.

"Times are changing," she said, adding that the association's stance is "problematic". That amounts to strong criticism in Japan. This relative outspokenness is a reflection of the change of style in the recently elected Japanese government.

"If I meet the executives of the Sumo Association, I'll have a word or two to say to them about this," Mrs Akamatsu said.

The question of choosing a grand champion, or yokozuna, is among the most sensitive in Japanese sport. The committee was accused

of discrimination last year when it refused to elevate the then front runner, Konishiki, a Hawaiian, to the highest rank. One council member complained about the sport being "flooded" with foreigners.

Women are only allowed to compete in amateur rankings and at the professional level they are not even allowed to set foot in the *dohyo*, the sacred ring in which the wrestlers grapple, out of fear that they will defile it or bring bad luck.

Dewanoumi, the association's chairman and a former yokozuna, has responded to Mrs Akamatsu's comments by reaffirming the ban on women in the ring, while adding that women can join the committee. "We haven't shut women out. We just couldn't find a suitable person," he said.

Officials criticised for suicide note delay

FROM WOLFGANG MUNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT Langston, chief of the US Park Police, who investigated the death of Vincent Foster, President Clinton's former legal counsel who shot himself last month, has criticised the White House for its delay in handing over a suicide note.

Mr Foster was found dead in a park outside Washington on the evening of July 20, after having shot himself in the mouth with a 1913 Army Colt 38 calibre revolver which had belonged to his father. Several questions surrounding his death remain unanswered, such as the precise timing of the suicide.

Mr Foster wrote his comments some time before his death, possibly up to ten days earlier.

The note was made available to journalists in type-script form and not in its originally handwritten order not to upset the family. It was not discovered during an initial search on July 22, but four days later, when an aide discovered the unsigned note, torn into 27 pieces.

Responding to criticism that it had not made the note available to investigators for 30 hours after it was found, the White House said that it first wanted to contact Mr Foster's wife, Lisa, and President Clinton.

Mr Langston said his officers "certainly weren't pleased" about the delay. "Our investigators would have liked to have seen that briefcase and would have liked to have examined the contents of it," he said, a view shared by Robert Bryant, head of the FBI's Washington field office.

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Is the high road to Edinburgh a route to fame for the young? Alice Thomson and George Osborne report

The biggest annual audition in the world

Now that the right-on Ben Elton and Stephen Fry are about as funny as tofu, the time may be ripe for a couple of girls from Surrey who do a fair imitation of Tweedledum and Tweedledee

The first day of the unofficial start of the Edinburgh Fringe and the pink carpeted floors of the genteel Overseas House club were covered with luvvies.

Upstairs in the tea-room, a callow youth from Oxford was wandering around with goatee beard, white tights and knickerbockers looking for *Shakespeare for Breakfast*. The floppy-haired girl from Festival Flats was negotiating over the last bit of floor space and a group of Ukrainian actors were frantically pursuing their translator.

Downstairs, the first performance of *The Naked Brunch* was about to take place in a converted library. An auergine-haired Mel in voluminous tartan coat and blood-red trousers was teetering on the step ladder trying to organise the spot lights.

"Is this Coriolanus?" asked a technician in a black T-shirt with Ned's Atomic Dustbin on the back. "No, we are the Farce Kittens, this is a two-woman situation comedy." Mel Giedroyc says severely. A soaked Sue Perkins comes in, chewing gum. "They are in danger of selling out *Shakespeare for Breakfast* upstairs, it's so depressing. I feel sick," she says and exits. The loos are blocked for the next half hour.

Then it is time for a prop check. Duvels, pillows, dish rags, giant salad servers, anoraks, metal bras, net curtains, swimming goggles, a half-eaten croissant — all the paraphernalia of suburban life. "I want to go to your death scene," Mel says. "No, we have got to find the banana and rubber gloves first, they are vital."

Tricky what makes us laugh. One minute it's the likes of Ben Elton, Stephen Fry and anything to do with the Young Ones and the next minute all that right-on politically sound stuff seems about as funny as tofu. At the moment stand-up comedy is a greater phenomenon than the pop group Suede. We just can't seem to get enough of it — even the quick-fire gags of the old music hall comedians.

There may be no room for faint hearts, sensitive nerves or delusions of grandeur but there are plenty of opportunities for the young and talented to make wads of tenners in comedy clubs and pack out concert halls. Jo Brand, a roly poly former nurse, Ardella Jones, an Edinburgh Fringe award winner, the older Roy

"Chubby" Brown and the 225lb Texan belle Thea Vidale (The Chocolate Kiss who reduced Clive Anderson to a quaking jelly) have all proved they have more pulling power than the flagging protégés of Stock, Aitken and Waterman. Jack Dee, Frank Skinner and Sean Hughes all have fledgling cult followings and the skinned Eddie Izzard can compete with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

But the money to be made on the comedy circuit is a lot of mushy mussels compared to the breaks you can get at the Edinburgh Fringe —

'I think I do stand-up because it scares me and it's cheaper than drugs. It is exhilarating'

the largest annual audition in the world. Here among the UK bungee jumping, the Zimbabwean jivers, a docu-drama on the Supremes, tartan knickers and plastic sporrans is where you can really make the contacts and get your breaks.

There are television companies, organisers of international festivals and agents for large domestic venues. If you are very lucky, you might end up like French and Saunders with a £2 million contract with the BBC. As yet, Mel Giedroyc, 25, and Sue Perkins, 23, are just adolescent pimplers on the face of British comedy.

By 10am there is an audience of two German tourists, a love-sick couple, two pensioners and me. As a life-long Laurel and Hardy cringer I pray no one is going to be too humiliated and it is not going to involve audience participation.

But the show is slick and fast and totally professional once they have found the right soundtrack. East German shotputters, Harvard post-fermentists, fascist PE teachers, The Nordic Haemorrhoids, Pam Eynes and Jodie Foster whizzed past. We move from athlete's foot to halitosis to the Puffin book club and synchronised swimming.

Two middle-aged, middle-class crusties in headscarves head for a rave. "I can already smell the Kathmandu hotspot and the tang of

the medilous. This is it. How can you put a bar-code on a stream?" they say as they accost a policeman.

They are not hysterical, crude or particularly satirical. They rely more on free-flowing charm than vicious wit and a cosy sense of intimacy: the humour of group therapy and shared embarrassment. Their lank hair flying, they do a few neat pelvic thrusts and their lips sometimes shoot into their eyebrows.

"It didn't go great but we got away with it," they say, hugging each other as the lights come up. We go off to the bar, towing along a six-month-old screaming baby belonging to an actress in the new play, *8 Million Quid Is Small Potatoes*. Two old men from the club are trying to read the newspapers. "Pandemonium today, this fuss will last all fortnight," turned one as we began the interview.

"Being white and middle-class is useless if you are a comedian," the comic Eddie Izzard once said. Mel and Sue disagree. From Purley and Leatherhead, they met in the Cambridge University Footlights and have gone on to work for BBC Radio 4 *Week Ending* and have been commissioned to develop a sitcom for Channel 4 — not bad, they admit, for Surrey girls.

"I told a joke on a *Maggie* programme when I was seven," Mel says. "What do you get if you cross an elephant with a kangaroo? A whole lot of holes in Australia." It panned terribly. I cried all the way home but I knew it was what I wanted to do. "I just used to drop my pants every time my father got the cine camera out, we were both terrible show-offs," Sue says. "Women can be as funny as men but it's not as done to pull faces."

Why did they both decide to go for comedy — normally a fairly mortifying experience — when they could have opted for straight acting, journalism or script writing? "Comedy is much more challenging structurally," Sue says. "You have to organise jokes, visual gags and pauses." (They talk like Tweedledum and Tweedledee, one after the other in rapid bursts).

"To be honest," interrupts Mel. "It's because we are no Desdemonas or Ophelias. We aren't willowy, enigmatic or coy and we can't swoon. So from an early age we got into gagging and playing to the gallery. I only hope we don't swell too large."

She retreats into the sofa and Sue takes over. "I think I do stand-up because it scares me and it's



Double act Mel Giedroyc (left) and Sue Perkins... looking for the contacts and the big breaks

cheaper than drugs. It is exhilarating seeing how fast your brain can function. I love women who have no fear."

Mel sees herself as more of a New Age Lesley Judd and was lured into comedy as a *Curry On* fanatic. Sue cites Penelope Keith as her influence and is particularly partial to county lady accents. Neither can stop impersonating Emma Thompson.

Financially they have not yet started to impersonate the big stars. "We don't have regular money and my parents are worried I will never move out," Sue says. Mel is doing a television director's course and makes money with her enterprise Ham Decorators "guaranteed to bungle". Sue writes and they are both adamant they will stick together through fat and thin.

When they get depressed they play at being film producers Joel and Ethan Cohen, of *Barton Fink* fame, who wear beige tanktops and take themselves terribly seriously.

"Alternative comedy has exploded so much it's not a cosy little world of Oxbridge undergraduates any more," Sue says. "It's mainstream, tough and we know it. But Edinburgh is exciting because we will see all the stars strutting around from afar. We are the B-team here. The ones who come up by coach, sleep on a floor and operate out of plastic bags. We have the cheapest slot in the day and it still costs us £850. But we aren't expecting anything, except to have a good time."

With that, they are off to leaflet the cobbled roads of Edinburgh. They would like to spend their

nights partying and tripping. "We would love to be Janis Joplin but we are more likely to be sitting in bed watching *Prisoner: Cell Block H* with our chocolate," Mel says.

"Oh, and we would like to thank our parents for everything they have done, our brothers and sisters, the cast, our colleges..." they say this smoothly enough to know that they might just have been practising. After all, the fringe launched Rowan, Jacobi and Stoppard and Emma Thompson.

● The Times will provide extensive coverage of the festival. Benedict Nightingale reviews drama. Geoff Brown writes on the film festival. Richard Morrison tunes in to operas old and new, and (tomorrow) John Russell Taylor picks out the plums from the exhibitions.

FRINGE ATTRACTION

"I'd like to do what Branagh's doing, only bigger. I'd like to be the best actor ever." Liam Sheehan, 21, is ambitious, and not ashamed to admit it. "I think it's important to aim high, then you're always waiting for the big break just around the corner. It keeps driving you on." Next week, Sheehan will be at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe appearing as Benedick in a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* by the LOST Youth Theatre Company, a London-based repertory group for would-be professional actors and directors.

Sheehan sees the fringe as an opportunity to catch the eye of a casting director from one of the big professional companies. He says: "I'm unmitigated in my assault on Edinburgh. I walk up to people and say 'have you seen my show yet?' You need to grab their attention, so that they say, 'OK, let's see if you're as good as you say you are.' You have to make your own luck at the fringe."

The administrator of the fringe office, Mhairi MacKenzie-Robinson, says: "All the major papers are here, all the major television companies are here, directors of festivals around the world arrive in the city looking for new talent. If the quality of student productions is excellent, then it will be recognised."

This impression of the fringe as a giant job market is reinforced by the advent of awards such as the Perrier Pick of the Fringe and the Fringe Firsts, which offer successful productions a run at a coveted fringe venue, such as the Assembly Rooms, and a run in the West End.

Tim Cunningham, former president of the Oxford University Drama Society (OUDS), remains pragmatic about the possibility of being discovered, and believes the fringe has more to offer. "It's getting to do your play the way you want to do it, and throwing that open to a wider audience."

Cunningham believes getting a break at the fringe is largely a matter of luck. "It's just somebody seeing your production and saying 'why don't you be assistant director on my new show?' Obviously it helps to be bloody good as well."

Katherine Mendelsohn, an Oxford graduate who is directing her own adaptation of *The Little Prince*, hopes one day to be an artistic director, commissioning work and signing directors for a big company. However, she does not expect to be catapulted to overnight success at the fringe. "That sort of thing only happens in *42nd Street*, where the chorus girl goes from rags to riches. To succeed in the theatre, you've got to have a lot of drive and you've got to keep bouncing back."

Nick Morton, who plays Piers Gaveston in a radical production of *Edward II*, believes the days are gone when aspiring actors from Oxford and Cambridge could walk straight into professional theatre. "We no longer have any right to believe that Oxbridge drama is the best student drama in the country and so we have to be that much better."

He hopes to make a career as an actor, but remains pessimistic. "I think a career as a waiter is probably more realistic."

THE TIMES RELAIS & CHATEAUX COMPETITION

Win a luxury weekend in France

Today The Times invites you to take advantage of the four of five opportunities to win a luxury weekend break for two at a Relais & Châteaux hotel in France. The winner of today's competition will stay for two nights at the Hostellerie du Clos in Verneuil-sur-Avre. Breakfast and dinner is included. The prize also covers



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To enter, telephone 0891-555 553 before midnight tonight, with the answer to the question that follows and your name and address.

Is the south bank of the Seine the Left Bank or the Right Bank?

Calls cost 36p a minute at the cheap rate and 45p a minute at all other times. The first correct answer drawn will win the weekend break. The normal rules of Times competitions will apply to this contest.

Peace in turreted splendour

THE Hostellerie du Clos in Verneuil-sur-Avre is an ancient manor house standing at the gates of the Duchy of Normandy. It is a beautiful, turreted house in patterned brick, with a green English garden. Patrick and Colette Simon created this splendid Relais & Châteaux hotel 30 years ago and have been welcoming its guests as friends ever since.

Verneuil-sur-Avre itself is a charming historic village, with its ancient fortifications still surviving. It is within easy reach of Chartres, and its magnificent hilltop cathedral with its three rose windows — one of the most famous sights in the world. Also easily visited is Giverny, home for the last 40 years of his life of the painter Claude Monet; you can walk round his house and his garden, with the lake and the

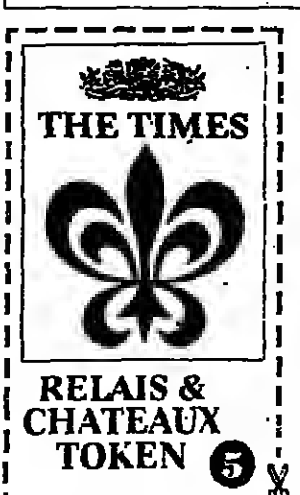
water-lilies that were the subject of one of his greatest series of paintings.

When you return to the Hostellerie, a splendid feast will await you. The chef, Dominique Poisson, will offer you an hors d'oeuvre of a trio of puff pastries, with truffle, foie gras and lobster.

To follow, you might have brill cooked in cider, fillets of sole, with crab, or — a popular speciality since the hotel first opened — veal kidneys cooked with juniper berries. You can eat either in the dining room or on a terrace looking over the lawns.

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A shed filled with controversy

Why politicians should never chase headlines, but always record the news before they go to bed

MY FATHER, who was first elected as an MP in 1906, had his parliamentary and political office in the basement at home and every day from the early 1920s until his death in 1960 he brought three copies of the Royal edition of *The Times*, because they did not yellow with age.

One copy was for the use of the family and the other two he read, marked with a decimal numbering system he had devised to cover all his political interests, and then, using two guillotine he had installed for cutting the columns in two, the cutting went over sticky rollers and were ready to go into books, so that he had the history of his files were carefully copy-typed and ready to use.

He had a contempt for politicians who lived on the headlines that had appeared that day and then moved on to tomorrow's headlines without trying to follow the course of events with a proper historical perspective.

He knew the background of every issue in which he was interested and his support for the causes in which he believed was greatly strengthened by his hours of study, backed up by his diary.

Unfortunately there was a serious fire in our house during the blitz on London, though the cause of it was not the Luftwaffe but defects in the amateur wiring that my brother and I had undertaken at my father's request in power the electric appliances he used for his office work.

After his death, his papers were taken to the Record Office at Westminster where the archivists have done a marvellous job of restoration and they are now available for students to use.

As a child, I was allowed to help my father in his office and so it is perhaps not surprising that I, too, should have collected papers and records from my earliest childhood and begun a diary when I was nine years old.

That complete diary — with a few gaps — now runs into many millions of words, including 40 manuscript notebooks written during the war, some of it in code as servicemen were not allowed to keep diaries.

I soon learnt that the most interesting people I have ever heard from come up for a talk on a train, or on the street, or write because they have something they want to tell you. It is a great mistake to suppose that only powerful or famous people are worth listening to, for the corridors of power have more than their fair share of bores.

THOSE who may be thinking of starting this sort of diary need to be warned that it takes at least an hour — and sometimes more — to each working day and imposes a severe discipline when, perhaps in the early hours of the morning, it is tempting to leave it over until tomorrow.

Once in Tokyo, after flying from London and attending a conference, I went to sleep during the dictation of my



TONY BENN

diary and woke up to find that the tape had run to the end and the recorder had switched itself off. I had to rewind it to find the moment when I had gone under, and start all over again.

Experience is the only real teacher and if you always make a note of what has been said, as for example in Cabinet, and then dictate it immediately afterwards, or before going to bed, you have a far better chance of understanding what really happened. Diaries read many years later may give you a completely different insight, which is their real value.

They also act as an index to all the associated files, tapes, photographs, press reports and now even floppy discs and videos which I have collected and store in seven sheds, so that any day can be recalled and studied in immense detail, or areas of policy can be reviewed over many years.

DIARIES are not journalism because they may never be published, they are not history because they are not comprehensive, and they are quite different from political memoirs in which mistakes are forgotten and supposed triumphs are recounted and may be embellished.

People, from all over this country, and indeed from all over the world, have consulted these diaries and papers to help with their own books and projects.

I never thought that I would ever be able to publish my diaries in my own lifetime, but on my sixtieth birthday I asked for, and received, a grant from the Rowntree Trust which paid for the transcription of some of the tapes, so I could look at them without committing myself to a publisher.

It was then that I realised that there was no reason why they should not be published and that, if people could know of the experiences which had formed my opinions, they would at least

understand the reasons for my views and some might even agree.

The one undelimited frontier of the British establishment is the recent past, when the newspapers have forgotten the old controversies and the historians have not started to freeze them into the official version, both with their own favourite list of heroes and villains.

In that sense it was a conscious policy to publish. Ruth Winstone, who has managed the whole project and edited five volumes so far, has done a magnificent job in picking out the highlights for publication without destroying the balance of the whole or removing the many mistakes which I have made through my political life — the inclusion of which has given credibility to the books.

The next volume, due out in 1994, will cover the years from 1940 to 1962. They may be others after that based upon the tapes which I am still painfully recording, night after night, when I would rather be in bed.

I am grateful to the British Library, which has agreed to take all this when I die. The only condition that I am making is that these archives should be open to anyone who wants to use them, and not be confined to academics doing post-doctoral research, for it was the Labour movement that gave me this supreme opportunity to work in politics and it should have the first claim on them.

I should add that all my family are archivists, too, and my grandchildren have each got their own files which they fill with their work, and which are always waiting for them when they come to help me in my basement office.

'Famous people are not always worth listening to — the powerful can frequently be bores'

حكمة من الاصل

Great strides in treatment of leukaemia... tetanus risk in gardens... and the cost of sleeping pills

Leukaemia's latest scourge

JANE was such an old friend of the genito-urinary medical clinic that she remembered it when it was known as the VD clinic. Over the years we had time to share the problems she suffered as a result of the behaviour of her errant boyfriend, as her troubles usually responded to standard remedies.

It was therefore surprising when she started to suffer from recurrent thrush, her condition did not even improve for any length of time after she was prescribed the then new and expensive oral anti-thrush preparations. All the occasional causes of recurrent thrush were investigated: Jane was not diabetic; zinc supplements did not help; but she was a bit anaemic and complained of being perpetually tired.

She was sent off to the haematologists to have her anaemia investigated, and they found that she had a slightly enlarged spleen, a low white blood cell count. Abnormal lymphocytes were later discovered in tissue taken by bone marrow biopsy.

The appearance of the lymphocytes was characterised by prominent cytoplasmic projections, villi or "hairs". These are the cells characteristic of a rare form of chronic leukaemia.

hairy cell leukaemia, which accounts for 2 per cent of all cases of leukaemia. Hairy cell leukaemia is sometimes diagnosed by chance but more often, as in Jane's case, the patient had been suffering from recurrent minor infections, is anaemic and has a low white blood cell count, in particular a greatly reduced number of one type of white cell, the monocyte.

The spleen is usually enlarged, occasionally grossly, and the liver



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

may be slightly bigger than usual. The diagnosis is confirmed by finding the hairy cells either on a blood film, or from bone marrow biopsy. Jane's case was only unusual in that she was a woman; it is four times more common in men.

The only treatment in the past for hairy cell leukaemia was removal of the spleen, which cured 10 per cent of cases, but the others, as in Jane's instance, relapsed. Usually, the disease was fatal.

In 1984 alpha interferon was first used to treat the disease. The drug is effective in clearing the leukaemic cells from the blood-stream, but does not eradicate the malignancy from the bone marrow. But it came in time to save Jane's life. Eighty per cent of patients respond favourably to a year's course of alpha interferon, less than half of these go into complete remission and most will need further courses of therapy.

Although the outlook for patients with hairy cell leukaemia improved enormously with the introduction of alpha interferon, it was not the answer to their problems. However, over the last five years another drug, Nipent pentostatin, has been undergoing a trial. The team working with Daniel Catovsky, professor of haematology at the Institute of Cancer Research and honorary physician to the Royal Marsden Hospital, has treated 110 patients.



Cutting problem: gardeners are at greatest risk from tetanus

Ninety-seven per cent had a favourable response and 75 per cent a complete remission; these patients are still symptom-free four years after finishing their four-month course of treatment.

"When one considers that only a few years ago the disease was fatal, this is a remarkable improvement," Professor Catovsky says. Recently, Nipent has been licensed as a drug of first choice for the treatment of hairy cell leukaemia. As for Jane, she is still symptom-free, very happy and now has a most amusing, and faithful, regular partner.

Old problem

THE PATTERN of diseases change. It is now, it seems, old age pensioners tending their roses who are most at risk of tetanus, rather than young soldiers on active service.

The Army has been immunising its troops against tetanus for 55 years, and since the early 1950s, all children have been inoculated against it, too. Holidaymakers travelling further afield are often advised to have a booster, as are those people who may suffer crash

injuries at work, or have contact with the land.

Tetanus spores remain viable for many years in soil which has been contaminated by animal dung, so even if a farmer now uses chemical fertilisers, the loads of muck his ancestors spread on fields had scattered disease-bearing spores far and wide.

General Practitioner magazine warns doctors that they must ensure that their over-65s are immunised against tetanus: many never served in the forces and are too old to have been inoculated in childhood, but they now spend their retirement tending their gardens on which well-rotted manure has been liberally applied for generations. Even a casual injury can result in tetanus and over the past four years more than half the 126 recorded cases have been among the over-65s.

Profitless pills

LEDERLE and Warner Lambert, the pharmaceutical firms, could never have hoped to make much, if any, profit out of research in hairy cell leukaemia. The benefits of their work was essentially for patients rather than shareholders.

On the other hand, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer must have thought that they were on to a winner when their scientists formulated Zimovane zopiclone, the first member of a chemically new class of sleeping pills. Zimovane will enable an insomniac to have a good night's sleep, and the manufacturers claimed that it had far fewer side effects than the benzodiazepines it hoped it would replace. These hopes were dashed when the British government threatened to include Zimovane among its blacklist of drugs considered too expensive for routine health service prescriptions: accountants, as well as doctors, now determine treatment.

After months of negotiation the government has accepted the clinical value of Zimovane, which is the only modern non-benzodiazepine hypnotic available in Britain. Government and manufacturers have agreed a price which, unless the drug is widely used, will not enable the manufacturers to recoup research costs, though as a result of the agreement doctors will be able to prescribe Zimovane on the NHS.

The ministers' victory may be Pyrrhic. Rhône-Poulenc is reconsidering its research and development programme and cutting back on its interest in sleep disorders. The government stand, it claims, will have vast ramifications in its industry, which is a leading export earner.

Can psychiatrists ever help to catch killers?

Mental profiles of criminals owe more to detective novels than real police work, Simon Wessely writes

Psychologists have a long-standing role in the criminal process, helping courts in evaluating the reliability of testimony, or helping witnesses to recall half-forgotten memories. But recently psychologists have become more directly involved in catching criminals by using what is known as "offender profiling".

The idea is not new — a psychologist produced profiles of Adolf Hitler during the war, and another took part in the hunt for the Boston Strangler. But it has now captured the public imagination and is soon to receive the ultimate accolade: Robbie Coltrane will play a police psychologist in *Cracker*, a new television series this autumn.

Offender profiling is based on the theory that criminals leave not only forensic clues, such as fingerprints, but behavioural clues. The way in which a crime has been committed can be analysed in relation to known behavioural patterns of similar offenders.

Using this method, a description — or profile — of the perpetrator's probable characteristics can be assembled.

In Britain, Professor David Canter of the University of Surrey, is the principal exponent of profiling, particularly since publicly he attracted for helping the police to catch John Duffy, who had been dubbed the "Railway Murderer". Despite this success, the usefulness of psychological profiles is still not established.

When psychiatrists are asked to assess the motives of an offender in custody, they can draw on a detailed interview with the suspect, discussions with relatives and school, hospital and social service records. Even then, assessing and interpreting motive is not easy.

The profiler is being asked to carry out a more difficult job in which the prime source of information (the offender) is



Series thriller: Coltrane plays a police psychologist

usually unavailable. Everything depends on the accuracy of the data recorded by the police at the crime scene, and on witness testimony. Both are notoriously fallible.

Profiling is also of most use if the offender has not only a criminal record, but also other more detailed information on file. If the perpetrator has no record, the task is almost impossible. It is no use the psychologist reporting that the possible criminal is male, tall, single, violent and living in south London, unless that data can be linked to

known criminals on file. Neither can profiling be used to secure a conviction. No matter how brilliant the psychological detail, it can never replace normal police work — nor, to be fair, is that intended.

A more fundamental problem lies in the nature of psychological research itself, and the role of probability. Profiling is little more than the assembling of a database, and then, after statistical manoeuvres, the production of a list of probable characteristics that seem to go together. A 66 per cent chance that an offender has a certain attribute means there is a 33 per cent chance that he does not. There is thus a danger that the occasional investigation will be not helped, but misled. The ordeal of the six wrongly convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings began when they tested positive for explosives. What was forgotten was that the test indicated only an increased probability of handling explosives. The police, given what they were told was objective scientific evidence, were then convinced that they had the criminals, with tragic consequences.

There is a danger that offender profiling will possess some of the aura of laboratory scientific evidence, which can itself err. In practice, offender profiling hovers uneasily be-

tween statistical inference and common sense.

One paper on profiling rapists noted that most operate in a familiar neighbourhood, and do not travel long distances to commit their crimes, presumably because they need to be familiar with the terrain and possible escape routes. The type of victim chosen may have some psychological links with someone important in the rapist's past. Both seem plausible, but hardly profound. Profiling research also suggests that rapists who force their victims to wash themselves after the attack may have some familiarity with forensic methods, and hence may have a police record.

In the Duffy case, Professor Canter suggested that the criminal may have had a background in martial arts, inferred from the manner in which he tied up his victims. He was correct — but was this based on statistical or psychological research?

Psychological research is valuable to the police. A detailed study of jailed rapists, carried out by Don Grubin and John Gunn, of the Institute of Psychiatry, involved interviews, psychological tests and extensive record searches. The results challenged many stereotypes. Rapists are not sex-starved lone males — most were involved in relationships with women when they offended. The results should be, and are, part of police training. They can also be fed into the computers used in major enquiries. But the research provides only general pointers and probabilities, and cannot be extrapolated to specific unsolved cases.

There are other reasons why profiling may work. Psychologists are called in for complex, unsolved enquiries, usually those in the public eye. The simple act of obtaining advice from a well-informed professional may help the police to take a fresh look at information they already have.

Lucy Taylor, of the Institute of Criminology, has suggested another benefit. As any psychologist or psychiatrist knows from personal experience, a big section of the public continues to believe that such people possess mystical abilities, such as being able to read the minds of others.

Overall, profiling owes more to a literary, not academic, source. I have not seen Mr Coltrane's performance as a police psychologist. However, I predict his character will have certain features. He will possess a broad knowledge and intuition. He will also have some character eccentricities, some unusual talents, and may not be the easiest of fellows. He will always get his man.

This is not a profile of any psychologist I know, but of the real father of offender profiling — Sherlock Holmes.

● The author is senior lecturer in psychological medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry.



Many hands make lights work: Corinne Calvet, the French star of the smoking-friendly 1950s, typifies the glamour once associated with the habit

Tobacco's silver screen sex appeal

Of all the props in movie history, few have merited an Oscar more than the cigarette. Many's the time the curling wisps of smoke and the seductively angled Marlboro have played the real actors off the set. *Casablanca* without cigarettes would be gin without tonic, ice, or lemon.

Let's hear a mention, too, for the cigar, shopped by a thousand movie villains, basing their performances none-too-subtly on the black-bearded producers from head office. The pipe, puffed Maigret-style, has always breathed a reassuring, middle-class solidity.

The Health Education Authority would like to put an end to all this. The use of smoking in movies, it says in a report published this week, continues to convey a positive image, ignoring the acknowledged horrors of the habit: cancer, heart disease and dirty ashtrays.

The HEA has its job to do, and there is no longer any doubt that smoking is dangerous, but it's hard to read the report without an inward groan. Is no corner of life safe from the sanitising fervour of the health professionals? We can tolerate being told not to smoke, but to be told that we are not even allowed to watch people smoking strikes me as puritanical.

In any case, the evidence presented in the report hardly demonstrates an orgy of Hollywooded smoking. The author, Terence Wright, reader in media studies at the University of Luton, looked at the top ten films from January to June this year. Eight showed smoking scenes; only *The Jungle*

A call for smoking on screen to be banned smacks of pointless censorship

Book and Honey, I Blew Up the Kid emerged as HEA-certified smokeless zones.

Dr Wright admits that in only one of the films, *The Bodyguard*, could smoking be viewed as a glamorous activity. In *Home Alone 2*, smoking occupied just 0.18 per cent of the film, and occurred when child star Macaulay Culkin stumbled into the underworld and saw two prostitutes puffing away. Exactly the sort of downbeat message about smoking the HEA might be expected to welcome.

Dr Wright complains that smoking is often used to reinforce character: men in films smoke when faced with a tough decision, women when under stress. Powerful men smoke cigars; nobody smokes a pipe any longer.

But isn't this rather like real life? Earlier this year the HEA helped finance a report by the Cancer Research Campaign and Ash (Action on Smoking & Health), which showed that working-class women see cigarettes as "a necessary luxury" for coping with the stresses of life. Not so different, it would seem, from the stereotype Dr Wright deplores.

Furthermore, he admits that

smoking was not used in any of the films as a point of social contact, a very different situation from the 1940s when no screen romance could begin without a shared cigarette.

"Shall we have a cigarette on it?" Paul Henreid asked of Bette Davis in the classic *Now Voyager* in 1942.

All in all, Dr Wright's survey convinces me that films do no more than match reasonably accurately the way we live now. Smoking may be reprehensible, but it continues to be part of life for a lot of people, and not to see it at all in films would be strange, if not absurd. When Hollywood is permitted to portray violence at a level unimaginable in daily life, to deny it the opportunity to display commonplace activities like smoking is a curious form of censorship.

Fortunately, the HEA has yet to acquire the powers of the Hays Office, which used to lay down the law about what Hollywood could and could not show. What it has done is to attach to rented copies of the film *Singles* an anti-smoking message. Fast-forward buttons, we may be sure, will be busily deployed as teenagers sit down to watch this tale of six young Seattle suburbanites falling in and out of love.

Along with trailers for films you know you'll never want to see, and that man assuring you the video has been pronounced wholesome, the HEA's message will whizz by in a blurry second or two. Smoking is a silly habit, but it's sillier still to expect filmmakers to pretend it doesn't exist.

NIGEL HAWKES

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Janet Daley



■ Is there a misogynist cabal which rejects rape as a serious crime unless it is accompanied by violence?

Yet another woman is abducted and raped. A man simply opened the passenger door of her car while she waited at traffic lights, and pulled a knife. What are the chances that her archetypal attacker — scruffy, bearded, and raked — will be arrested? Lower than ever. At a time when reported rapes are at an all-time high, the rate of arrests is falling drastically: according to *The Times*'s report this week, by 23 per cent in the Metropolitan Police area. If he is caught, what is the likelihood of his being convicted? Even less, since the chances of satisfying the Crown Prosecution Service that a strong enough case has been established are peculiarly poor in cases of rape.

In the unlikely event that he is arrested and successfully prosecuted, what are the odds that he will receive what most women would regard as a fitting sentence? Might he not come up against a judge who will decide that for some reason or other, the victim's experience was not really so bad — like Judge Michael Addison, who said this week that

Rape is still an anomaly in our adversarial courts

It is easy to see all of this as an anomalous conspiracy, a deliberate skewing of the criminal justice system to devalue women and downgrade the worst crime that can be committed against them short of murder. There is a considerable growth industry in propagating exactly that view, not all of it orchestrated by militant feminists. The police, who were once principal villains in the persecution of rape victims, now themselves complain of the difficulty in obtaining convictions or decent sentences. Having reformed their own attitudes to women, they now find their efforts to protect them frustrated.

So is there a misogynist cabal which systematically rejects the idea that rape is a serious crime unless it is accompanied by the kind of terrifying violence that men can more easily understand? I don't think so. Except perhaps in a few dark corners of legal life where men remain untouched by normal human concerns, the handling of rape may be insensitive but it is not driven by malice. These men, after all — the prosecutors, the judges and the defence barristers who pull out all the stops to get rapists acquitted — have wives, sisters and daughters, or at least mothers, who are all potential victims.

What hampers them is not so much contempt for women as a real conceptual problem. Rape, as opposed to any other violence that might accompany it, is a crime which is defined by someone's experience of an

event. The sex act, which is a normal human function, becomes "rape" when it is carried out against the will of one of the participants. But since her (or occasionally his) will is an internal mental state, proving that it was determined against the act — especially in retrospect — is extremely difficult. Signs of physical resistance may help, but they are not definitive: they may result simply from robust but consensual sexual activity.

Few other crimes are like this. Robbery consists of taking someone else's property against his will, but few burglars try to claim that their victims really wanted to be robbed. First because evidence of forcible break-in is usually straightforward, but also because having their valuables permanently removed is not something to which people often consent — unlike the sex act. Which is not to say that rape exists only in the mind of the victim, but that it is not, as some women activists insist, one uniform thing.

Commenting on Judge Addison's remark that the woman who had been out to dinner with her attacker had not endured the worst form of rape, because the rapist was known to her, a representative of the Rape Crisis Line said: "There is no such thing as a rape which is better or worse than another."

Isn't there? Isn't it worse to be held at knifepoint by a deranged stranger, or repeatedly attacked by a gang who threaten to mutilate you, than to have sex forced upon you by a date who wouldn't take no for an answer? Of course, rape is always criminal because it is an assault and a violation, but it is no good pretending that some rapes are not worse than others, or that there are not real difficulties in deciding degrees of guilt.

These problems would exist in any fair-minded justice system, because rape is a crime rarely committed in the presence of witnesses, and for which forensic evidence is often ambiguous. But the problems are certainly exacerbated by our adversarial courts, in which the victim must fight it out with the accused. This contest, because of the presumption of innocence, is actually weighted against the victim. Her word alone can scarcely ever be sufficient to convict, and yet it is only the state of her will which makes the act a crime.

Rape is a doomed anomaly in a prosecution system geared to dealing with objective crimes in which the perceptions of the victim are not crucial. Careful and compassionate investigation of motives is as close as one can get to the truth of such a crime. And courts dedicated to gladiatorial combat between lawyers hardly allow for that.

The message the Pope has come to preach will not appeal to Clinton's America, says Frances Kissling

Pontifications that fall on deaf ears

Pope John Paul II arrives in Denver, Colorado, today as young Catholic people from around the globe gather in the city for World Youth Day. Although the Pope will find admiring throngs in Denver, his popularity will end when his preachings begin. Survey after survey suggests a deepening, expanding rift between America's Catholics and the Vatican, especially on matters of sexuality and reproduction, as well as the role of women in the church.

For example, almost nine out of ten American Catholics believe the church should permit couples to make their own decision about forms of birth control. Only 13 per cent agree with the church's position on abortion. And despite the church's ban on both, Catholics in the United States use contraceptives and resort to abortion as much as other Americans. Furthermore, American Catholic priests do not agree with the Vatican's position on these issues. As long ago as 1970, a study by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops found that more than four-fifths of the Catholic clergy did not insist on adherence to the birth control teaching among their parishioners.

In everyday Catholic life there is an unspoken agreement: the Catholic in the pew goes her own way on matters such as divorce, birth control, and

abortion, and for the most part the parish priest looks the other way. But this Pope will have nothing of this past. Lost in the pelvic zone, John Paul II increasingly insists on fidelity to his restrictive views on sex and reproduction.

This, after all, is the Pope who went to AIDS-ravaged Uganda and exhorted the population there to refrain from using condoms to stem the spread of the virus that causes AIDS. This is the Pope, too, who urged Bosnian rape victims not to have abortions, but to "transform an act of violence into an act of love and welcome." This is an ethic that does not resonate, it rattles.

As Catholics gather in Denver to greet the Pope, many will be there to spread a message of dissent. Those who disagree with the church on priestly celibacy, on women's ordination, on family planning and abortion, on homosexuality and on the hierarchical structure will be there to voice their argument. We are increas-

ingly unwilling to turn a blind eye to areas of disagreement. A Catholic in the United States is a product of the American tradition: we believe in a pluralistic, democratic society with a high degree of tolerance. We were, after all, taught that our forebears came to this country seeking religious freedom as well as economic opportunity. We see democratic change as the way to bring our church's teachings into line with the way we live our lives. We began this work in earnest 25 years ago, in the turbulent 1960s.

The convergence of the papacy of John XXIII and the presidency of John F. Kennedy occurred as Catholics were fully assimilated into American society. We were accepted in the political process by the time Pope John began to recognise the maturity of Catholics within the church. When he convened the Second Vatican Council in 1962 to bring the church into the modern era, enormous enthusiasm was engendered. Vatican

II embodied the spirit of America. Catholics in America in particular came to believe we were the church; we sensed a new partnership between the leaders and the people.

When, in 1968, Pope Paul VI released the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, reaffirming the church's narrow view of sexuality and the ban on birth control along with it, American Catholics were not only crushed, they felt betrayed. The church has not been the same since.

The Pope responds to this by adopting a hard-line position. Like a spurned lover whose only way of communicating with the object of his passion is through the mail, John Paul seems unable to do anything but issue letters that repeat the same 25-year-old message over and over. Each time the Pope issues a new statement exhorting Catholics to embrace his unworkable sexual ethic, the fissure grows wider.

Pope John Paul II arrives mere weeks after the 25th anniversary of

Humanae Vitae, and shortly before release of a new papal encyclical, *Veritatis Splendor*, which is expected to underscore the church's moral teachings. American Catholics are mystified by the new encyclical. Why bother with another letter to say nothing new?

John Paul comes to a country where the majority of the 55 million Catholics (who are about a quarter of the total population) reject his position on sex and reproduction. And he will be greeted by a new president who, on his second day in office, overturned restrictive reproductive policies of the Reagan-Bush era. Just as John XXIII and John Kennedy mirrored one another in the 1960s, the papacy of the hard-line John Paul and the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush were well matched. But that ended with the election of Bill Clinton. The Pope's meeting with President Clinton will be short and probably not sweet.

We are unlikely to be told what the two leaders say to one another. We can only hope that the president will speak from his heart. That is, after all, what dissenting Catholics are attempting to do. And although the church does not listen well, we must not stop trying to be heard.

The author is the president of Catholics for a Free Choice.

Most select of nations

Like many of our great institutions, English cricket lacks self-confidence

When I was at the Arts Council, I sometimes envied the Sports Council its responsibility for cricket, which is perhaps closer to the centre of the average Englishman's culture than any of the arts, with the possible exception of pop music and Shakespeare. Cricket has great cultural strengths. It can be very beautiful, a sort of ballet without music, of which the result is unknown. It has the excitement of mimic warfare, with some of the physical danger of the medieval joust. It is a social focus for those who love the game, linking generations of its admirers. It is the most intellectual of team games, with endless subtleties of tactical choice.

Of course cricket is not what it was. This however is a perpetual condition. When I was watching cricket at Westwood-Mare in the 1930s, the old men, some of them still limping from Boer war shrapnel, were regretting the decline from the days of C.B. Fry and Ranji, some of them could even remember W.G. Grace, if only as a country doctor of limited medical knowledge and uncertain temper. Yet the one-day game, played in coloured pyjamas, does lack cricket's traditional elegance. It is like the reduction of Shakespeare to a strip cartoon, with captions reading "Hi Hamlet, I'm your dad's spirit."

A Dorset clergyman has written a special collect as a prayer for English cricket. I did not altogether admire the collect itself, which has God bowling a googly, but the idea is not inappropriate. All the threatened branches of English culture, the Church of England, the House of Lords, trial by jury, the monarchy, British Rail, cricket, should join together and support each other. There should be a special train to take Prince William to watch a Test match at Old Trafford, supported by the ancient dukedoms, with the Bishop of Liverpool — himself once a notable England batsman — conducting the 1662 form of morning prayer in the restaurant car, and an empanelled jury to decide the fate of the England captain at the end of the match. The outing should be paid for by Paul Getty, who is the great surviving patron of English culture, and the prime minister, as a cricket lover, should have a reserved seat.

There are many links between cricket and English literature. There

are the cricketing jokes, such as the wicket keeper who was known as the Ancient Mariner because he "stop-path one of three". There is the nostalgic poetry of Henry Newbolt: "There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight — ten to make and the match to win"; and the higher poetry of Francis Thompson: "As the run-steaders flicker to and fro. To and fro. O my Horsey and my Barlow long ago."

It was a non-cricketing poet, Charles Wolfe, who wrote: "Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note, as his corse to the rampart we hurried." That may have been true of Sir John Moore at Corunna, but it was not true of Ted Dexter at Edgbaston. On the contrary, his corse was greeted with loud applause as it was carried to the rampart. I think he has been unlucky. The job of chairing the Test selectors depends upon there

being talent to select. The sad story of English defeats reflects the fact that many runs as the batsmen of other cricketing countries, and English bowlers have not taken as many wickets.

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings. Shakespeare is our greatest cricketing poet, though I think he never refers to the game at all. I do not see much harm in Ted Dexter himself. He seems to have modelled his personality on that of the Duke of Edinburgh, at least in two respects. He is tactless with the press, and he walks with his hands behind his back, as though he were captain of the Waspette in a Spithead review before King George V. I cannot see that either characteristic is other than an admirable eccentricity, in him or indeed in the Duke of Edinburgh. I rather enjoy their "in which we serve" personas.

Ted Dexter was wrong not to select David Gower for the tour of India. Cricket at its best is a cavalier, not a roundhead game, when talent is scarce, it seems perverse to reject genius. Yet I doubt whether it would have made a great difference to the actual result. England with Gower would not have been a winning side, because they would still have lacked wicket-taking bowlers. While he was playing for England, Ian Botham, apart from his batting, was involved either as bowler or fielder in one third of all the wickets taken by Eng-



In his heyday, Botham was involved in a third of England's wickets

land. If the Botham and the Gower of the early 1980s had been available to Ted Dexter, England might well have been a winning side.

It is also ungenerous to the Australian team to make a scapegoat of Dexter. This Australian side has an extraordinary depth of batting, which — as at Edgbaston — has made recovery possible when England looked as though they might break through. The Australian bowling has been better than the English, in all sides of the attack. The strongest post-war England XI's would have been hard put to it to defeat this Australian side. Alan Border

has been an excellent captain, shrewd, well organised and implacable. One should not blame Dexter for having selected a losing team when so obviously the best side won; they won because they were more talented and because of the Australian culture of determined aggression.

Nevertheless, there is a problem. At Edgbaston, England lacks a centre, either to the batting or to the bowling. The secondary roles were played as secondary roles, either well, as by Embury, or badly, by those batsmen who missed another chance. No one was able to play the central role. It was like a perfor-

mance of Hamlet with an excellent Horatio, a lamentable Gertrude and no Prince of Denmark at all. Perhaps Atherton will become a Prince of Denmark, but he is not one yet. As it is, we have batsmen whose best innings peter out between 50 and 100, and bowlers who on a good day take two wickets for 100 runs, but we have no one who "rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm", as Joseph Addison wrote of the great Duke of Marlborough.

In all its forms greatness depends on talent, but is nevertheless a moral rather than a physical quality. In cricket there have been batsmen of extraordinary gifts who never became great batsmen, and others who took a limited talent far beyond what it should really have been worth. Greatness depends on qualities of will, courage and concentration. As a captain, Graham Gooch was not able to convey these qualities to other members of his team, although as a batsman he possessed them in abundance.

Greatness also depends on self-confidence. Ian Botham, whose retirement marks a cricketing epoch, has been the greatest English all-rounder since W.G. Grace, a unique force. His self-confidence, his willingness to take on the whole Australian Test side on his own, was unbounded. He was a Hercules of the wicket. As he walked on to the ground, one felt he was capable of strangling a lion single-handed, and left-handed at that. We have no one in English cricket today with that confidence. There is a canker of self-doubt that has done more than any technical inadequacies to undermine the performance of our players.

The lack of confidence eats into our national life. The British, who are about 1 per cent of the world's population, ran the world for about 100 years, from the defeat of Napoleon to the outbreak of the first world war. That was an exceptional episode. Before then we were one of several powers; since then we have once again been one of several powers. Before we ran the world we produced Shakespeare, who is the world's greatest poet, and Isaac Newton, who may be the world's greatest scientist. We also gave birth to the United States. Even nowadays Britain is one of the pleasantest and fairest countries in the world to live in. We play a not unworthy part in world trade, world communications and world defence. But it would be good for our national morale if our cricketers recovered their belief in themselves. "Nought shall make us true, if England to itself do rest but true", as the Bardard says in *King John*. Perhaps we need a Bardard to replace Ted Dexter.

Name your price

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber would like to let it be known that he is delighted with his art dealer. So delighted, in fact, that he has paid £850 for a full-page advertisement in this week's *Antiques Trade Gazette* to thank his St James's dealer, David Mason, for "arranging the purchase from a private source in the USA of Danie Rossetti's *A Vision of Flammetta*".

Mason, who also arranged the purchase of Lloyd Webber's £10 million *Cassiopeia* and *The Old Horseguards*, was told of his client's wish to buy the painting only three months ago. The composer, an enthusiast for the pre-Raphaelites, read of the painting in a Rossetti catalogue, which listed its last sale — to David Rust, an American collector, for £3,990 in 1965.

After three months and countless phone calls across America, Mason tracked down Rust in Washington DC. He wrote asking if he would consider selling. "He sent the letter back with 'What's your highest offer?'

scrawled along the bottom." Mason flew to Washington on Concord immediately. "He was not really interested in selling and he thought our price was too low. He also said he had a tax bill to pay, which I told him not to worry about." Mason returned to London, got the go-ahead from Lloyd Webber and was back on Concord. Two days later — on August 1 — he was back for good, with the 70 in by 45 in oil in the hold. The painting now hangs in Sydmonton, Lloyd Webber's Berkshire pile.

Mason says the huge canvas of a woman dressed in a red tunic surrounded by blossoms is the "most haunting, mesmeric picture I have seen in 37 years of dealing". It is also, no doubt, one of the most expensive. The last Rossetti sold achieved £1.43 million in 1987. Rust is highly unlikely to have sold his for less.

As they take delivery of their new £70,000 cars in the next few days, the first owners of Rolls Royce's limited Cor-

niche IV can sit back, safe in the knowledge that an artificial bloom has tested the car seats to their very limit. The 200th pair of main-made leathers, which the Bishop of Liverpool — himself once a notable England batsman — conducting the 1662 form of morning prayer in the restaurant car, and an empanelled jury to decide the fate of the England captain at the end of the match. The outing should be paid for by Paul Getty, who is the great surviving patron of English culture, and the prime minister, as a cricket lover, should have a reserved seat.

Even Patten nods

OUR recuperating education secretary, John Patten, points out proudly in his foreword to a forthcoming book on state schools that the "secret garden" of state education has been opened to public gaze. Were it not for judicious editing, so too would the secret of his spelling.

In 144 words, Patten expresses enthusiasm for *The Sunday Times State Schools Book*, which analyses 400 of the country's best schools, and pledges his commitment to more openness and accountability in education. So it is rather a pity that a draft of this short and incisive commentary submitted to the publishers, Bloomsbury, contained two spelling errors: committed and publicly.



Action man Paddy Ashdown, fresh from dodging bullets in Sarajevo, has set off on another of his intrepid expeditions. Ashdown, with a rucksack on his back, was spotted at Victoria station with his wife, Jane. Not that the former marine was planning anything too hair-raising on his latest venture. He is in Burgundy at the family cottage.

Random Century

IAN BOTHAM'S retirement looks short-lived. Less than a month after he stood down from first class cricket, HarperCollins, for whom he is writing his autobiography, is confident that he will be at the crease for the first London v Oxford publishers' cricket match early next month. Richard Johnson, Harper-



Collins' senior editorial director and the captain of the firm's team, says: "We are in negotiations with Ian, and it looks hopeful. Failing him, we also have a chance of David Gower and Allan Lamb, both of whom have books out. We can't have all three. The Oxford publishers have allowed us only one superstar." Well that's one more than England, anyway.

Mustn't grouse

THE shortage of grouse on the moors this year may be bad news for landowners, but it must be good for Jardine insurance brokers, which is offering landowners an insurance policy against saboteurs for the first time. John Hastings-Bass, managing director of the company's personal and commercial divi-

sion, says about 25 moors have signed up. But with grouse numbers so low this year, sab action is expected to be modest, so the big pay-outs are not expected. As a result, however, premiums, along with the numbers of grouse and demonstrators, are lower than expected. Hastings-Bass is stoical. "It is a cycle and the pendulum will swing back again." Along with the birds.

Dissenters line up

CIRCULATION figures are always a worry to newspaper proprietors. But few can be as worried as Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory chairman, who, faced with plummeting sales and income from *Newsline*, the party's official newspaper, may have to shut it down.

Closure would be a blow to the party's already miserable morale, as it would be the first time since the war that the Tory machine was without its own paper. *Newsline*, which carries only articles fiercely loyal to the party high command, is regarded as bland and supine even by officials at Central Office which produces it. The party conference issues could be the last.

"Closure is one of a number of options," admitted a party spokesman yesterday, putting circulation at between 80,000 and 90,000. He did point out, however, that many Conservative associations around the country cannot afford to reimburse Central Office at 25p a copy.

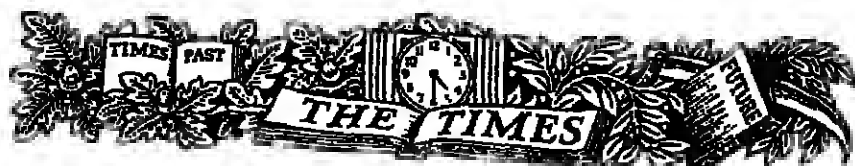
There is now talk of Tory activists setting up a new publication, using articles by party members critical of government policy. "It would present the real picture of the party, which *Newsline* ignores," says one. Two sections perhaps?

Glenys's campaign runs out of puff

NEIL KINNOCK, having been wooed off the weed by his wife in March, appears to have lapsed. Glenys, a reformed smoker herself, revealed that she had finally succeeded in turning the Kinnocks household in Ealing into a smoke-free zone when she launched the Children's Charter for Freedom Against Tobacco in April.

But four months on, his wife's hopes that the former Labour leader had kicked the habit for good appear to have been stubbed out. Kinnock rarely smoked in public during his period as leader because of fears of the damage it would do to his image, but in private he drew a near Wilsonian comfort from his pipe. Perhaps he no longer cares what people think of him. The other day at lunch in fashionable Christopher's restaurant in Covent Garden, he was spotted puffing away — not on a pipe, but at a cigarette. What a pity they don't make Strands any more.





IN DRY DOCK

The political ship will not be holed by a Commons report

The great Royal Dockyards show has drawn faithful crowds at Westminster for so long that MPs seem unable to live with the idea that Malcolm Rifkind's judgment of Solomon in June might have ended the run. The announced division of labour, which allocated all nuclear submarine refits to Devonport and promised Rosyth half the surface fleet refitting work as a consolation prize, is formally a proposal to be confirmed after "consultation". Yesterday's report by the Commons select committee on defence is the response. But in practice, the committee well knows, this exercise is a formality.

The report's questioning of the arithmetic behind this decision usefully underlines the truism that, when ministers solemnly swear that their sole concern is "to ensure the best deal for the Ministry... and the taxpayer", quite different considerations are likely to be at work. But since both yards are dominant employers in politically sensitive unemployment blackspots, that is hardly news.

Politically, the report's most damaging allegation is that the defence ministry put Rosyth at an unfair disadvantage in the bidding, by leading it to believe until last autumn that the navy was prepared to pay a premium for a purpose-built dock for Trident submarines. Devonport, by contrast, was bidding all along on the basis of upgrading existing facilities, a vastly cheaper alternative.

Since ministers have repeatedly stressed the savings resulting from the competition between the two yards to win the nuclear submarine contract, Mr Rifkind must answer the charge that because of this advice, and the lack of detailed specifications, the whole bidding process was not a genuine competition. But the committee fails to show that this "potentially unfair" treatment was decisive in winning Devonport the submarines contract.

The committee's strictures would bite

harder were its own claims to financial rigour more secure. The report airily dismisses the £64 million difference between Devonport's bid and Rosyth's as so marginal that it should not have decided the issue. Terrorist attack is a risk that naval dockyards should be capable of countering, and its argument that £280-£330 million for an emergency backup nuclear repair facility at Rosyth would be "a price worth paying" has politics written all over it. So does its diligent enquiry into the number of jobs likely to be lost at Rosyth, given that it makes no attempt to come up with an independent estimate of what Devonport would have lost, had the decision gone the other way.

Above all, the committee misses the opportunity to hammer the government where it is truly vulnerable. The vaunted £64 million saving on the bids quietly left out of the calculation both the £110 million already spent at Rosyth — on a massive hole which may, or may not, now be used for decommissioning nuclear submarines — and at least £100 million more which will be required to equip Rosyth to handle the 18 large surface vessels it has been promised.

The truth almost without doubt is that the key to the ultimate decision lies in Tory constituencies, not the MoD. Labour will naturally make mountains of hay with the report; but Babcock Thorn, which manages Rosyth, responded yesterday that it intended to press ahead with restructuring the yard. That is only sensible: a purely economic appraisal might have led to its closure, whatever the government says about the saving graces of competition. The government has agonised long over the navy's argument that only one dockyard was needed for a reduced fleet. Now that it has settled itself firmly between two stools and decided to keep both in business, ministers have no intention of reopening this most contentious of debates.

CLASS IN THE COURT-ROOM

Civil litigation should now become easier for the middle class

In a country that prides itself on popular access to justice, it is absurd that there should be one law for the very rich and the very poor, and another for those in between. Yet if the cuts in the legal aid budget planned by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, are not counteracted by changes elsewhere in the legal system there is a risk that civil litigation will become too expensive for even more middle class people. His decision to allow lawyers to double their fees if they take on a case for nothing and win it is therefore a welcome reform.

The Lord Chancellor has put flesh on the bones of the 1991 Courts and Legal Services Act, which permits legal representatives to take personal injury, insolvency or European court of human rights cases on a speculative basis. Having originally suggested that lawyers should be able to increase their fees by only 20 per cent if they win a case, he has now agreed that they should be entitled to double their usual payment. This amendment will transform the attraction of the "no win, no fee" system to the legal profession.

Proposals of this kind have traditionally provoked fears of vexatious litigation and "ambulance-chasing" lawyers seeking to profit from misery. But the conditional fees system which Lord Mackay has endorsed differs considerably from the American contingency fees system, under which lawyers waive a fixed fee in return for a share in any damages won. The Lord Chancellor's proposals will simply entitle lawyers to a fixed bonus for taking a calculated risk successfully.

Nor do they apply to the more sensitive areas of litigation such as criminal and matrimonial cases. Far from spawning

pointless litigation, the new system should encourage efficient use of court time by rewarding lawyers who select cases only where they have a reasonable chance of success. The "no win, no fee" system has worked well in Scotland without any of the worst excesses of American legal practice.

By his own admission, Lord Mackay's legal aid cuts will affect at least 250,000 people. The conditional fees system should improve the access of the middle classes to civil justice and thus help to correct a disgraceful anomaly in the legal system. If the reform proves successful, the Lord Chancellor should consider its extension to other areas of litigation, such as planning and libel cases.

But the introduction of conditional fees should be seen as only one element in a rolling review of legal costs. A conditional fees system is not a true substitute for legal aid, since it does not protect the loser from the winner's costs or experts' fees. The unsuccessful litigant may still face a daunting debt at the end of a case. Encouraging lawyers to take cases on a speculative basis is no panacea.

The Lord Chancellor must therefore continue to examine ways of controlling the legal aid bill — which is already £1,100 million a year — without reducing eligibility. This might include the establishment of more law centres to offer cheap advice on subjects such as benefit and consumer law; measures to boost the legal insurance market; and the introduction of a formal public defenders' service for certain categories of criminal offence. Widening access to justice in a cost-effective way should remain a fundamental priority for the government. This week's welcome proposals must be the foundation of much else.

CARNAGE IN KASHMIR

The Indian government must respect human rights

Something is rotten in the state of Kashmir. At least 12,000 people have been killed there since 1990, mostly civilians. About 60 people are killed each week. India is at war in Kashmir and the presence of half a million soldiers — from both its regular army and its notorious paramilitary forces — is evidence of the seriousness with which the Indian government regards the situation.

Wars — even civil wars — have their rules, however. A fundamental democratic rule is that innocent civilians must never be made a target. Yet thousands of them have died in Kashmir and the Indian government must account for their deaths.

Indian soldiers violate human rights with impunity. They conduct extra-judicial executions (a euphemism for murder), torture, make citizens "disappear" (in the sense of Latin American *desaparecidos*), and engage in rape, arbitrary imprisonment, theft and arson. Soldiers are seldom punished. Contrary to the propaganda of the Indian government, the rule of law has collapsed in the region. The judicial process is in a state of paralysis. Constitutional rights and guarantees exist on paper alone.

Indian soldiers are at war with heavily armed separatists. Some favour an independent Kashmir, others accession to Pakistan. India cannot be faulted for deploying its army against these groups, but it is against them alone that the army must be deployed. By its indiscriminate brutality it has, however, succeeded in alienating all civil-

ians. It is unlikely now that any Kashmiri party, group or political figure representative of popular opinion would contemplate a solution to the crisis within the framework of the Indian state.

Of greatest concern, however, is the immediate question of the violations of human rights. India is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is under an international legal obligation to put its house in order. At the very least, it must act in accordance with its own, admirable constitution. It insists that Kashmiris are Indian citizens. It cannot, therefore, deny them their rights as citizens.

India has never been an easy country to govern and it is not suggested that its problems are easily resolved. It is correct to insist, however, on the following: certain minimum democratic standards and values, a return to the rule of law, accountability for actions conducted in violation of human rights, and a guarantee of the right to life (the Indian government's claim that thousands of civilians die in "crossfire" must be rejected as nonsense unworthy of a democracy). It is time to insist, too, on an end to the Indian ban on access to Kashmir for investigators from international human rights organisations. A return to a democratic culture is in India's best interests. It has been lobbying discreetly (if optimistically) for permanent membership of a reshaped UN Security Council. Its domestic human rights record damages its cause profoundly.

Cost of child care to single mothers

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, Public opinion seems to be unanimous that we do not want single mothers to leave two-year-old children at home while they go out to work (Letters, August 6). We cannot achieve this object by making a scapegoat of one single mother. We must ease the pressure which is leading other single mothers towards doing the same thing.

This means we must look at government policy. This is not only a matter of lack of help with child care, for which £50 a week is bottom of the market. A woman offered a job who cannot find child care within 24 hours can be deemed unavailable for work, and may risk losing benefit altogether.

If she hopes to earn enough to pay for child care, the combined diminution of family credit, housing benefit, council tax and national insurance means she loses 97p in the pound of any extra earnings.

Since 1989, people can be compelled by threat of loss of benefit to take a job which pays below benefit level. Now, the abolition of wages councils makes it even harder for a single mother to earn enough to pay for child care.

If she gives up trying, and lives at home on benefit with her child, she is then told by Mr Peter Lilley, social security secretary, that she is a scrounger, a drain on public funds, and part of the dependency culture.

If this were a civil case, so much pressure to go to work and leave the child alone might be called contributory negligence. Punishing one woman will not change the pressures on others to do the same thing. The government is not without sin, and cannot cast the first stone.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL
(Liberal Democrat spokesman on social security),
House of Lords,
August 6.

From Mrs Valerie Jablon

Sir, As a one-time working mother and retired barrister and recorder who specialised in divorce and family cases, I would like to congratulate Libby Purves on her article regarding the young single mother who left her child alone at home ("Who cares for the mother?", August 4).

I wish all politicians, non-paying fathers and everybody else mentioned in her article could be made to read, digest or re-read it.

I wrote to Margaret Thatcher about 25 years ago when she was merely the local MP, stating the case for child care to be made tax-deductible for

working women, but I received a bland reply showing no interest, and unfortunately no government since has chosen to protect children and their mothers in this obvious way.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE JABLON,
64 Gurney Drive,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, N2,
August 4.

From Mr Quentin Campbell

Sir, It is hard to find any sentence available under present legislation to satisfy all the concerns of those worried by the six-month sentence on the mother who left her child at home whilst she went to work.

A non-custodial sentence could be criticised for failing to reflect the obvious gravity of the offence and possibly for giving encouragement to others in a similar sad predicament. A custodial sentence inevitably causes the child further harm and skilled help is needed for both mother and child.

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which came into force last October, substantially altered a court's power to suspend a prison sentence. A custodial sentence can be suspended only in "exceptional" circumstances such as previous good character, remorse, a plea of guilty, etc. do not now enable a sentence to be suspended.

In this case imprisonment to recognise the gravity of the offence, but suspended, together with a period of supervision, would come close to satisfying the legitimate concerns expressed.

The judge, however, did not have this power. Perhaps consideration should be given to reverting to the pre-Criminal Justice Act 1991 position.

Yours faithfully,
QUENTIN CAMPBELL
(Solicitor and magistrate),
Marlborough Street,
Magistrates' Court,
21 Great Marlborough Street, W1.

From Ms Elizabeth Flanagan

Sir, Whilst accepting Mr Chaim Berman's point about single women getting pregnant (Letter, August 6), would it not benefit the whole of society a great deal more if, before having intercourse, every male asked himself how he could best support the child which might be the outcome?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH FLANAGAN,
71 Winchester Road,
Whitchurch, Hampshire,
August 6.

Care of mentally ill

From Dr John H. M. Crichton

Sir, The expected announcement this Thursday of the introduction of supervised discharge for the mentally disordered (report, August 5) may promote the popular view that psychiatrists should be jailers of the mad and thus protect the public.

It is easy to forget, after recent headlines, that most mentally ill are not violent and most academic opinion suggests they are no more violent than the general population. The role of protecting the public is not unwelcome to medicine, but the role of jailer is.

Any illness restricts the freedom of the sufferer and this is particularly true of mental illness; doctors should reduce that restriction, allowing patients as much freedom as possible to lead their lives.

Psychiatrists have the power to imprison within hospital, but with the aim of reducing the chains of mental

illness and enabling return to the community. Community orders should also aim to protect the public and reduce the impact of mental illness, but with the overall aim of maximising patient autonomy.

Such autonomy will lead patients to decisions that their doctors may disapprove of. Decisions later regretted or seen as foolish by others are part of life, and the skill of the psychiatrist will be in deciding when to intervene and when to stand back.

Psychiatrists are not jailers, surrogate parents, or priests; their role is doctor to the mentally ill and part of that is balancing the restriction and freedom of both psychiatric treatment and mental illness.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. M. CRICHTON
(Nightingale Researcher),
University of Cambridge,
Institute of Criminology,
7 West Road, Cambridge,
August 10.

Puzzle posers

From Professor K. B. Saunders

Sir, Mr John Kay (Letter, July 31), who competes for the Times Saturday crossword prize, cannot use the whisky, but would treasure the congratulatory letter. As one who has written his name in his *Times Atlas of the World* with his Schaeffer pen (but inexplicably missed out on the Parker), I can inform him that should he win a bottle of Knockando, that will be it. No congratulatory letter, I am afraid. You don't get one.

However, should he succeed, I would be happy to dispose of the former and provide the latter.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SAUNDERS,
77 Lee Road, Blackheath, SE3.

From Mr James McDermott

Sir, Like Mr Kay I found myself on the horns of a dilemma over winning the prize crossword, but for a different reason.

For a considerable time it was my overriding ambition to win that beautiful pen, guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner. In November 1991 I did indeed win; and at that time, one did get a congratulatory letter. After showing off this and my pen the delight wore off. I considered the future: it seemed churlish to try to win a second pen, and in any case, does lightning strike twice?

An ambition fulfilled creates a vacancy. But what other objective is so erudite yet flippant, noble yet attainable, worthy yet fun? What other last resort is there for a lazy intellect?

Yours sincerely,
JAMES McDERMOTT,
Beech Grove, Church Lane,
Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire.

Runways at Gatwick

From Mr E. M. Holdsworth

Sir, Lord Boyd-Carpenter (Letter, August 6) refers to the "undertaking" not to build a second runway at Gatwick airport. This is, in fact, a formal agreement under seal made in 1979 (not 1974) between British Airports Authority and West Sussex County Council. Two empty bodies more than capable of looking after their own interests. The key clause is a covenant by BAA not to build another runway before 2019. That covenant is legally binding and could be overridden only by an act of Parliament.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter referred to government "not being bound" by it, but I do not understand the significance of that observation. The government is not bound by my mortgage but it is (unfortunately) still legally binding.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOLDSWORTH
(County Secretary),
West Sussex County Council,
County Hall,
Chichester, West Sussex.

Peak practice

From Mr Peter Allen

Sir, It seems to be de rigueur these days to wear a baseball cap at various sporting and social functions. But at what stage does etiquette dictate that the cap should be worn backwards?

Yours faithfully,
P. ALLEN,
10 Mallocks Close,
Tipton St John, Devon.

Conflict on testing and curriculum

From the Chairman of the Conservative Education Association

Sir, Your editorial, "In place of strength" (August 3), is right to welcome the interim report from Sir Ron Dearing on the national curriculum and testing, but mistaken in criticising the government as abandoning test league tables at seven and 14 because of teacher union muscle.

The teachers were successful in their actions this summer because they had a good case that was supported by parents and a wide body of informed opinion, both inside and outside the Conservative party. That was their strength. If it had just been a trial of strength with union muscle, the result of the conflict would have been different.

For some while now the government has been accused of listening only to the extreme right wing of the Conservative party on matters of education. In its response to the Dearing report it has clearly shown that it has heeded advice from a far wider group than that or the teacher unions.

While there is overwhelming support, both among the public and the professionals, for the principle of a national curriculum and the importance of testing, which are the bedrock of government policy, concern about the detail of how these reforms were being implemented was widespread. Ministers deserve to be supported in their courageous recognition of past mistakes and their decisive response to Dearing, and not to be striped at for being prepared to listen.

Yours sincerely,
D. CORYTON,
Chairman, Conservative
Education Association,
73 Marine Avenue, Hove, East Sussex,
August 3.

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, You are right to identify the danger of "a national schools service at the mercy of union whim". Sir Ron Dearing's interim report provides a starting line for us to develop a structure that will deliver a good education to our pupils.

This structure can only be built, however, if there is a meaningful partnership between the government, head teachers, teacher unions, local

authorities and Sir Ron Dearing's school curriculum and assessment authority. This would go some way to ensuring a more effective implementation of change.

All of us within the education industry must be disciplined enough to put aside our political agendas, in order to concentrate on the professional issues.

We need to trust one another in the interests of education and the pupils we teach.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDREWS,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
2 St James' Court,
Friar Gate, Derby,
August 4.

From the Reverend Professor Howard Marriott

Sir, The intentions of Baroness Blatch, the education minister, and Sir Ron Dearing to raise the status of religious education are welcome (report, August 10). The churches in membership of the Free Church Federal Council have always supported every action to improve the content of RE, both to prevent it being the "poor relation" (to quote Baroness Blatch) and to provide "adequate time" for it (Sir Ron Dearing).

But over the past year, the main problem has not been the content of the syllabuses but two very major weaknesses. First, despite the increase in the number of teachers qualified in RE, over 50 per cent of pupils are taught by teachers not qualified in it. Secondly, many heads in non-church schools tell local committees that the demands of the national curriculum do not allow more than one period a week for it (even though church schools can always provide more).

The Department for Education should take national action both to provide more trained RE teachers — partly through in-service education by local advisers — and to require heads and governors to guarantee adequate curriculum time.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. MARRATT,
Education Committee,
The Free Church Federal Council,
27 Tavistock Square, WCI,
August 10.

Troops of distinction

From Mr Tom Cox, MP for Tooting (Labour)

Sir, In the horrors of Somalia and Bosnia little credit seems to have been given to those contingents from Commonwealth African countries serving with the United Nations. In comparison with troops from some apparently more developed countries, they have conducted themselves with great discipline and composure.

In Somalia, Botswana troops earned praise in a report published by *African Rights* as being "consistently respectful of human rights".

African Rights was critical of the behaviour of soldiers from Belgium and Italy.

In the former Yugoslavia, a battalion of Kenyan troops — a total force of 913 men — has earned world praise

with its sensitive patrolling of the 150-kilometre UN-protected border area between Bosnia and Dalmatia known as Sector South.

Kenyan soldiers have served the UN with distinction in the important areas of conflict and potential conflict, not least in Namibia during the transition to independence of that country. Kenya's armed forces are also currently serving with the United Nations Military Observer Group (Unimog) on the Iran/Iraq border. A Kenyan is currently the chairman of the UN-sponsored Joint Verification Committee for Africa in Mozambique.

All in all, a record of which many larger and more prosperous countries would be proud.

Yours faithfully,
TOM COX,
House of Commons.

Primary principles

From Mr John L. Randall

Sir, I am increasingly of the view that a serious deficiency in the primary education of our children is the apparent lack of any attempt on the part of teachers to inculcate ethical principles such as honesty, integrity and reliability.

When I was at school in the 1940s and 1950s we were constantly being told stories of great heroes and heroines whose lives exemplified these principles. Maxims such as "An Englishman's word is his bond" were instilled from an early age.

Nowadays it seems to be taken for granted that most children will lie and steal if given a chance. Children are often quite surprised at being rebuked for such things.

Ethical and behavioural attitudes need to be taught at primary level; by the time a child reaches secondary age it is usually too late.

Dare I suggest that the widespread corruption which now exists at all levels in our society has much to do with inadequate teaching in primary schools over the past 30 years or so?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN L. RANDALL
(Child welfare consultant),
6 Blandford Road,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Day-case surgery

From Dr G. R. Harrison

Sir, A dilation and curettage operation for women with menstrual problems ("Surgery with little benefit", August 3) can indeed require a two-night stay in hospital, but only for a minority of patients unable to be operated on as a day case for medical or social reasons.

In our unit nearly all patients for this procedure come into hospital on the morning of operation and go home on the same day. This is the result of an increasing expertise in providing anaesthesia for day-case surgery, which has been assisted by the introduction of newer anaesthetic agents.

Therefore this procedure, along with many other minor gynaecological procedures, can be performed as a day case with minimal disruption to the lives of the patient and her family.

Yours,

G. R. HARRISON
(Consultant anaesthetist),
Birmingham & Midland
Hospital for Women,
Showell Green Lane, Sparkhill,
Birmingham 11.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Hot on the trail

From Mrs Beryl Parkyn

Sir, Gardeners who have been invaded by a plague of snails and slugs throughout the summer may be interested to hear that since May 25 from our third of an acre garden, after dark by torchlight, my husband and I have collected 2,561 snails and slugs — mostly the latter, some over four inches long — and disposed of them with hot water, salt and Jeyes Fluid.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL PARKYN,
Ferneys Knap, 28 Middle Road,
Oakdale, Poole, Dorset,
August 8.

From Colonel A. H. W. Sandes

Sir, In Cornwall recently, I parked my car among many others on a cliff-top road above the beach at New Polzeath. Four days later, I found dozens of small snails on its bonnet and front. To my surprise, no other car had been so favoured and after two weeks and hundreds of miles of motoring my visitors are still aboard and thriving.

I suppose that snails might be attracted to cars leaving France, or driven particularly slowly, but in this instance neither explanation would apply.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SANDES,
Forefields, Beechwood Road,
Combe Down, Bath, Avon.

Athletics fans losing the race for championship tickets

Track and field's world championships open tomorrow. But how many seats will be empty?

Sports enthusiasts who have toyed with the idea of going to watch Linford Christie in athletics world championships in Stuttgart, Germany, next week have been left in their starting blocks: if they have not booked already, they will probably have to be content with watching the events on television.

Like many big sporting events, the athletics championships are now dominated by sponsors, who pay heavily for a glimpse of their name on television and in return take over large numbers of seats in the stadium. Genuine sports fans are therefore left on the sidelines, often galled by see-

ing television pictures which show many of the spectators' seats left empty.

Even if, today, athletics buffs decided that, despite all the problems, they still wanted to go to Stuttgart in time for the first events on Saturday, they would be hard-pressed to find a seat on an aircraft: they would have great difficulty in finding any hotel rooms available within 50 miles of the city; and the chances of picking up a ticket for even the morning heats session on just one day would be almost nil.

Despite a stadium capable of accommodating more than

53,000 people on each day of the nine days of competition, the championships became virtually closed to casual visitors months ago. Specialist travel agencies had bought blocks of tickets, which they then offered in packages through advertisements in specialist magazines.

The biggest such company specialising in athletics is Track and Field Tours of Ingatstone, Essex, which was allocated 600 season tickets (covering a number of sessions) after it began making plans to take athletics fans to the event more than two

years ago. All the best seats had, however, been set aside for press, officials, VIPs and sponsors, angering those trying to satisfy the demands of the "ordinary" fan.

"It is how the event appears on television and is reported that counts," says David Barnett, the managing director of Track and Field Tours. "The live experience of spectators is secondary. You can't just go to these events on an ad hoc basis." David Gamber, a director of Sports World Travel, says that technically it is still possible to buy individual day tickets direct

from the organisers. "But it is now very difficult to find a flight or hotel accommodation."

Centresport Travel, which is taking 200 British athletics supporters to Stuttgart for daily tickets, costing from £8 to £12 in the cheapest seats and from £38 to £75 a day in the most expensive. Those still determined to try to see the championships could travel by road and camp in the countryside near the city. Season tickets for the entire event range from £170 to £390 and package tour prices, in-

cluding flights and hotels, from about £450 to £1,100. The athletics coincides with the peak summer tourist season and a major international horticultural exhibition in Stuttgart which runs until mid-October.

Stuttgart is surrounded by vineyards and is often used as the jumping-off point for visits to the Black Forest, Heidelberg and Lake Constance. Götthel Daimler lived in the city when developing the petrol-driven engine. The city was also the home to the poet Schiller, and Hegel, the philosopher.

Although it is possible to drive to Stuttgart from Britain on fast autobahns, most visitors travel by air. The combination of the athletics championships and the horticultural exhibition has, however, meant that most flights are now fully booked, especially those leaving today and tomorrow (the day of the championships' opening ceremony) and on the following weekend, when the events finish.

Both Lufthansa and British Airways offer reduced economy class fares, with prices ranging from £125 return to £402 in business or club class.

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Christie: just the ticket

When in Crete, try to behave like a Cretan

Tourists are being warned that they could end up in prison if they fail to observe social customs in foreign countries. The advice comes amid fears that bad behaviour abroad is getting worse, and after seven British tourists were jailed in as many days for contravening the laws of Greek and Arab governments.

Some British officials in Greece blame cut-price holidays for creating a downmarket trend and encouraging a rowdy element to the country. "It is not a case of the police having a crack down on tourists, but rather that a growing number of people are making a nuisance of themselves," one says. "There are problem spots in Crete, Corfu and Rhodes, and they appear to be getting worse."

The arrests of Britons abroad were highlighted last week when a British mother and her lover were arrested and imprisoned in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, for adultery, because her divorce was not yet finalised. In Amadorae, Crete, Sarah Smith was locked up for three nights "immoral" dancing. Ms Smith, 22, from Sheffield, South Yorkshire, denied acting outrageously, but said that other people at the same nightclub had stripped off and were dancing suggestively.

Later four British men were arrested and imprisoned in Malia, Crete, and charged with swearing, assault and causing a public scandal. The father of one claimed he paid £11,000 to have them released. According to Doug McKellar, the British consul in Athens, the Greek police have not declared war on tourists, but will respond to complaints from locals who feel their peace has been seriously disturbed. "There is no evidence of a police crack down, but new regulations allowing 24-hour drinking have to part contributed to the problems of rowdy tourists," Mr McKellar says. "Not every bar is open all night, but the facility is there for people. We used to see arrests at around 2am, now it is more like 5am or 6am."

The Foreign Office says that by far the greatest number of arrests

Foreign travel can be dangerous if you disregard local etiquette. Marianne Curphey reports



Sarah Smith: jailed for "immoral dancing" in Crete

of British people in overseas countries last year was to Spain. There, 802 Britons were apprehended for various offences, mostly rowdiness. There were 223 arrests in Greece and 194 in France. Some 63 per cent of the arrests by French police were drug-related. Most of these, a Foreign Office spokesman said, involved smugglers trying to bring illegal substances through France from northern Africa.

For those tourists not likely to become involved in drug-running or rowdiness, the greatest problem encountered is hostility over dress. Thomas Cook, which organises the overseas journeys of more than 625,000 tourists every year, said both men and women should respect local customs and cover up, even in countries used to Western tourists such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Turkey. "It is always best to err on the side of modesty, and remember that revealing clothes can be offensive to locals," a spokeswoman said.

Keith Fitton, the director of the Centre for International Briefing,

in Surrey, trains British couples being posted overseas on how to adapt to the differences in culture. "The Middle East is fraught with problems for foreigners regarding dress, manners and conduct," he says. "Foreigners in Saudi Arabia will be arrested and imprisoned if they drink alcohol, throw loud parties, kiss in the streets, or dress immodestly. Even the local people are apprehended, so foreigners should be especially careful."

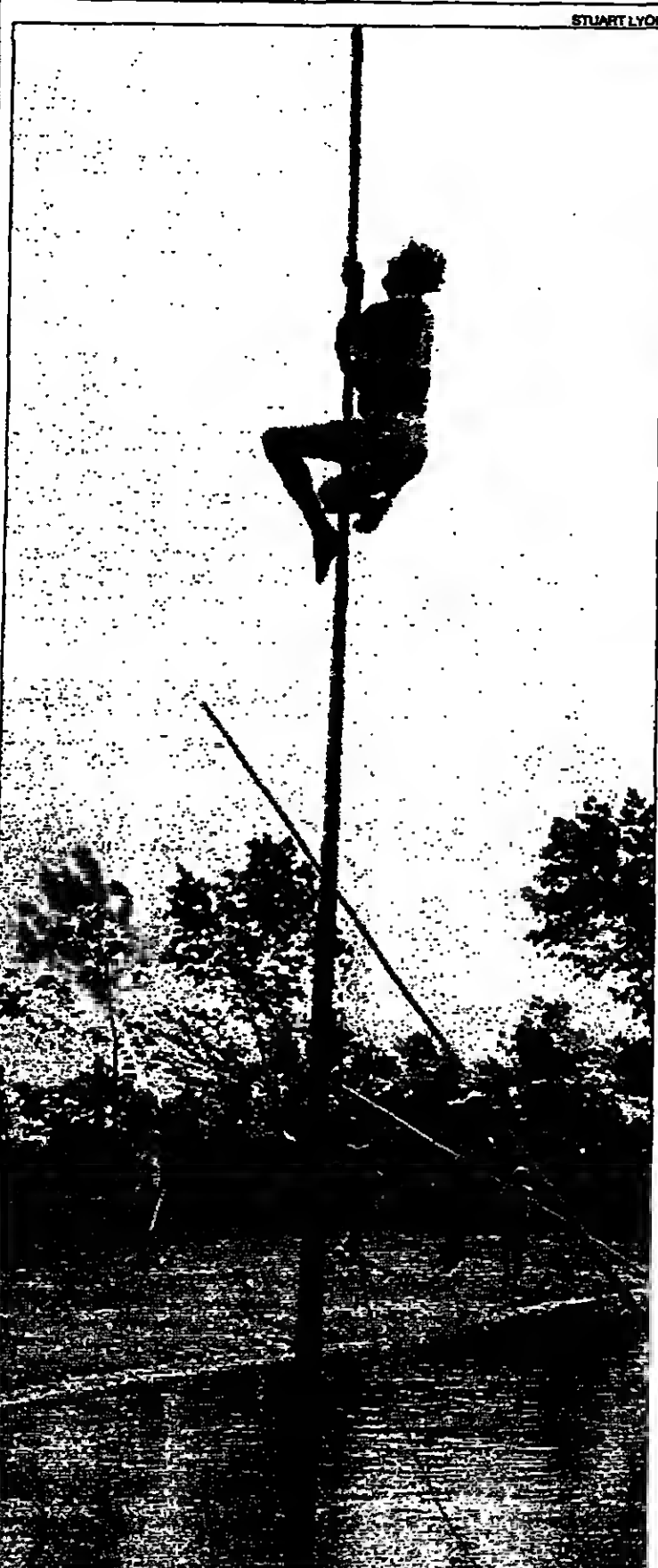
In addition, behaviour considered normal in Britain can deeply offend hosts abroad, and a social occasion can be disastrous if the visitor is unaware of local etiquette. In Japan, blowing one's nose in public is considered the height of rudeness, and a business card must be given and received with both hands. "The card is seen as an extension of the person, and should not be defaced or scribbled on," Mr Fitton says. "Seniority is very important in Japan, and a young person should never be sent to close a business deal with an older Japanese man."

Indonesians will be offended if a visitor points the soles of their feet towards them. In Pakistan, winking or making a fist are considered rude behaviour.

Jennifer Cox, spokeswoman for Lonely Planet, which publishes travel guidebooks, says: "Tourists should remember that they are visiting people's home towns. Some holiday-makers let their hair down and behave in a way they would not at home. Certain areas of Europe are not as broad-minded as Britain. In towns outside the heavily touristed areas of Spain and Greece the police can get aggressive if they encounter a lot of rowdy tourists. By contrast, Russia is rightly known for its hospitality, but locals will think you unfriendly if you refuse to match them drink for drink."

"Bell-bottomed trousers are outlawed in Malawi, perhaps to keep out hippies. In Argentina, single women booking into low-budget accommodation are often assumed to be prostitutes by locals and the police, and they should think about either sharing or taking a padlock."

Britons take Dutch ditch-jumping contest in their stride



Hang on: Aard de With, the world record holder, in action

A leap into the big time

BRITAIN may at last be on the verge of joining the sporting big time — if only in the game of Dutch ditch leaping. Harvey Elliott writes.

According to legend, in the 18th century poachers used to vault across swamps in The Netherlands to flee the clutches of angry gamekeepers. The gamekeepers eventually learnt to leap after them — and so began the sport of Fierljeppen.

Competitors launch themselves from a wooden pier at a ten-metre pole which rises out of brown, marshy water at an angle of 45 degrees. The momentum of the leap sends the pole swinging away from the pier in a pendulum action towards a sandpit on the opposite bank. The competitors then have just a few seconds to shin up the pole and launch themselves towards the opposite bank. Depending on how far they climb, they either land in the sandpit or in the ditch.

The sport has caught on so much in this country that the number of Britons making the trip is growing every year. Stuart Lyon, 30, was inspired when, as a boy, he saw Fierljeppen on an edition of *Blue Peter*. During a trip to Holland in 1989 he decided to trace the home of the sport and tracked it down to the north eastern province of Friesland.

The following year he returned to the annual championships, which are held on the last Saturday in July, with a contingent of British hopefuls and has been back every year since.

He has just returned from the 1993 one-day event where the British record was broken. He said: "Andy Chasaway from Huddersfield cleared 12 metres and 84 centimetres — that's an increase of 64 centimetres from the previous record although we're still a good six metres behind the Dutch."

"We had a ten-strong contingent this year, only three of whom landed in the water. That's a big improvement on last year."

A new world record was set at this year's championships when the Dutchman Aard de With leapt 18 metres and 33 centimetres.

TRAVELOGS

Back on the piste

SKI brochures are back on travel agents shelves even before the summer holiday peak is over. Some companies claim already to have sold a third of the winter sports holidays they have on offer.

Within the next week, the first of the brochures for next summer will be published. Airtours has already announced that it will be including Cuba, with prices starting at £299 for two weeks, room only, in a four-star hotel.

Tour operators are offering reduced rates for those who book early for the ski slopes and are certain to announce even bigger price cuts for next year's summer season. The reason is that they need the money from the deposits now and they want to be as certain as they can that the holidays they have to offer will, in fact, sell.

Thomson, for example, is offering price cuts on ski holidays booked before October 31 which, combined with some free lift pass offers, can lead to savings of up to £165 a week for a couple in the French Alps.

Starring Mr Punch

PUNCH and Judy shows, a feature of British seaside holidays for many years, are to be released on video. The 35-minute *Punch and Judy Collection* is based on the traditional slapstick which has been in existence in one form or another for 300 years.

A spokesman for NTV Entertainment, which is releasing the videos, says: "There is huge nostalgia for Mr Punch. All the parents remember him from seaside shows when they were children and are keen for their children to discover him."

Air slump slows

THE slump in business class travel which has been blamed for forcing airlines, hotels and car hire companies around the world into the red, could be coming to an end. British Airways disclosed this week that it had received, on average, 2.3 per cent more revenue from each passenger between April and June, compared with the same period a year ago. It said that the slump in "premium" class travel had at least slowed down.

In a survey carried out by the University of Surrey for Thomas Cook Travel Management, only six per cent of companies questioned thought that they would order their travelling employees to "downgrade" from a combination of club and economy class travel to economy only.

The survey shows that 77.6 per cent of companies anticipate a rise to their business travel spending over the next 12 months, partly because firms believe that air fares will fall overall, especially within Europe.

Malaria alert

DOCTORS are urging travellers to malarial areas to take proper precautions because of concern that many forget or neglect to take their prophylactic drugs. Ten people died in Britain last year after contracting malaria abroad. The disease kills more than a million people a year worldwide and affects 100 countries.

Zambia theft

THE Foreign Office has warned travellers to Zambia that armed theft of vehicles, especially four-wheel drive, is increasing. Visitors should avoid driving out of town at night, as other vehicles are poorly lit and the roads can be dangerous.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

Building sandcastles can harm your health

An Italian ecological organisation this week warned families not to build sandcastles on beaches after tests on 48 sand samples showed most to be impure and harbouring germs that can cause skin infection. At the same time, police said that fake merchandise bearing famous names such as Cartier, Chanel and Louis Vuitton could be about to flood the Ligurian Riviera from San Remo to Portofino. The warning followed a blitz on a highly-organised group of North African hawkers who descended on San Remo last weekend. They were intercepted by a 100-strong police force that confiscated about a thousand bogus items.

The sandcastle warning came from the ecologists' group Kronos. It is urging families to "resist the temptation to build them, or play with wet sand dug from any depth". Silvano Vinceti, the association's vice president, says: "People should wash thoroughly both before and after being on the beach."

Mechanised cleansing of the beaches is no answer. Shifting the sand simply helps the germs proliferate.

Dermatologists are not convinced, however. They say that the bacteria that cause skin infections do not reproduce in the sand but that the sand is simply a medium for their transmission. Dr Umberto Cane, of Turin's hospital for skin diseases, says: "It would be the same alongside any swimming pool in the country. The fault lies not with the sand but with those who are sitting on it."

Kronos took its samples from beaches in the north, centre and south of Italy. Those its report identifies as most at risk are at Nettuno, 35 miles from Rome; Punta Ala, near Grosseto; several private beaches at Misano Adriatico, near Rimini; and public beaches at Capo Rizzuto, Villanova, San Benedetto del Tronto, Senigallia and Sorrento.

TONY ROCCA

Disney fights to stay in picture

Euro Disney, the theme park which is losing £4 million a week, faces a new threat as an American rival, Universal Studios Hollywood, steps up the global battle for visitors.

After heavy investment in new attractions, including a \$60 million ride based on the *Back to the Future* films, Universal's studio amusement park is courting the British market with an aggressive marketing campaign. Euro Disney has repeatedly failed to meet financial targets since the launch of its £3 billion park, east of Paris, in April 1992. Last month it reported estimated losses of £60 million for the peak season and forecast the deficit was likely to continue into the winter quarter.

Industry analysts believe that competition for international visitors is critical to the success of theme parks during the recession. But the number of British

visitors to Euro Disney slumped by 50 per cent to 310,000 this spring. The company has already sought financial support from Walt Disney, its American parent, and delayed construction of a second site because of its poor trading.

Philippe Bourgoignon, the chairman, says the lesson of Euro Disney's first, troubled year is that its customers sought a genuinely American theme park. Before the complex opened, executives believed visitors wanted a European-favour with sit-down meals and souvenirs with discreet logos of Mickey Mouse. Now they realise customers want take-away food and T-shirts emblazoned with Mickey.

Universal aims to tap that seemingly insatiable desire for

Americana by encouraging tourists to experience the real thing. Cheaper hotels and admission make a trip to a theme park in America competitive once the air ticket is paid. While Euro Disney recently increased its daily summer charge to £28 for adults (£20 children), entry at Universal Studios in Hollywood is £20 (£16 children).

Universal is trying to persuade travel companies organising package holidays to California, including British Airways and Virgin, to include park admission passes in their deals. Stephen Spielberg, who produced the original *Back to the Future* film, helped to design the ride based on it, which opened in June. The ride is the latest in a string of expensive additions

which have transformed the Hollywood park from what was essentially a behind-the-scenes tour of a studio until 1985.

Last year, overseas visitors increased by almost one-fifth as more than 4.8 million people passed through the turnstiles, its second highest figure. In June, Britons overtook Canadians as the most numerous foreign visitors. And all this despite Los Angeles' image as a crime and riot-ridden city.

Euro Disney, meanwhile, is unwilling to pitch against Universal directly because it might impinge on its two American sisters, Disney Land in California and Disney World in Florida. Much hope is being placed in the belief that Britons holidaying in either Florida or California are more likely to fall for the charms of Mickey Mouse than *Back to the Future's* Doc Brown.

BEN PRESTON

KENYA

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INDIA

The land of amazing contrasts: the delightful beaches of Goa, the romance of the Taj Mahal, Indian heritage and its rich reserves of Wildlife.

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A trip that stretches back in time into the distant past with artifacts in excess of 3,500 years - enjoy it all from the charm or luxury of your Nile cruiser.

South Africa & Mauritius

Take a journey 1000 miles east of Africa to the coral cluster of The Seychelles, or away to the south down by the tropic of Capricorn to Mauritius, the paradise island.

Central Africa

By its Sheer Scale, Spectacular Contrast of Scenery and Circumstance, the huge canoes Southern Africa points, is one of a destination of opportunities to view Wildlife, without equal.

THAILAND

The land of smiles - an enchanting country of ancient culture, stunning beaches, flat plains and emerald paddy fields crisscrossed by canals and surrounded by mountains and forest.

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NEWS

Britain accepts more victims

■ Britain is taking another 20 seriously wounded victims of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in an initiative triggered by the plight of five-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic, John Major announced. Forty-one victims, many of them children, are to be brought out today or tomorrow.

Twenty will come to Britain, 16 will go to Sweden and five to Ireland. Twenty five doctors and nurses will be flown to Italy and from there to Sarajevo. Pages 1, 2, 9

Bosnians quit mountain

■ Bosnian Serb soldiers were pouring off Mount Igman yesterday after days of confusing claims and counter-claims about their movements. The move could ease the threat of Nato air strikes against Serb forces and revive the Geneva peace talks. Page 1

Businessman flees

Following Asil Nadir's example, another Turkish Cypriot businessman has fled to northern Cyprus, which fears the self-declared republic will become known as the new Costa del Crime. Page 1

Trident outcry

Accusations of unfairness, flawed judgment and confusion were made against the defence ministry by an all-party Commons committee over the award of the £5.5 billion Trident contract to Devonport. Page 1

Law fees censure

A former Master of the Rolls criticised government proposals to let lawyers take cases for nothing in the hope of doubling their fees if they win. Page 2

Vigilante convicted

A vigilante who seized a man supplying drugs to children and threatened to throw him off a cliff has been convicted of kidnapping. Page 3

Yardie gunman jailed

A top-ranking Yardie gunman who shot dead one man, injured another and hit a woman when he fired into the air was jailed for life. Page 4

Military desecration

The graves of British and Allied soldiers have been desecrated with swastikas and racist slogans at a cemetery in The Netherlands. Page 4

Any questions, your honour?

■ The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, is to be a panellist on the BBC's Question Time programme this autumn. It is the first time that a practising judge, let alone the country's most senior one, has accepted an invitation to take part in one of the most keenly-watched political and social debating programmes. Page 1

WPCs armed

Policewomen in Northern Ireland are to be armed for the first time, a development described by one police representative as the inevitable consequence of equality. Page 4

Car boot heels

Car boot sales are a happy hunting ground, not for bargain seekers, but for cheats, frauds and counterfeiters, say trading standards officers. Page 5

Prisoner's death

There is insufficient evidence for criminal proceedings over the death of a remand prisoner who died after collapsing while escorted by Group 4 guards, the Crown Prosecution Service said. Page 5

The Benn legacy

Tony Benn is to give his seven garden sheds full of political papers to the British Library. Pages 7, 14

Pope's divisions

The Pope arrives in America to be greeted by President Clinton and by a church divided over the pontiff's stance on issues such as contraception, abortion and the ordination of women. Page 13

Aidid targeted

Washington is considering sending commandos into Somalia to hunt down General Aidid, the fugitive Somali warlord whom the US suspects of arranging the killing of four American soldiers. Page 11



Waves of fire: a barge loaded with jet fuel blazing in Tampa Bay, Florida, after a collision with two other vessels. Coastguard boats hosed down the barge, Ocean 255, which was still attached to a tug that had been pushing it. No injuries were reported

REGIONAL

Regional recovery

Britain's regions are showing the most widespread economic improvement since the start of the recession, the Confederation of British Industry said. But its survey signalled warnings about confidence, employment and exports. Page 23

Job cuts

Clydesdale Bank is to axe 11 per cent of its workforce over the next two years, cutting 800 jobs from its 330 branches. Page 23

Markets soar

The FT-SE 100 Index soared over the 3,000 mark for the first time, closing up 34.5 points at 3006.1. Hopes of European recovery lay behind the rise. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 81.0 to 80.8. Page 26

SPORTS

Athletics: Nouredine Morceli, the

1500 metres world record holder, risks suspension and banning from the 1996 Olympic Games if he boycotts the world championships starting on Saturday. Page 44

Skating

Seven years ago Natalya Gorbenko was the world junior ice skating champion, representing the Soviet Union. Next year, as Natalya Risk of Bermondsey, she hopes to represent Britain in the senior championships. Page 40

Football

The season begins in earnest on Saturday when the Carling Premiership and Endleigh Football League get underway. Full guide to all the fixtures, domestic and international. Pages 38, 39

FEATURES

On the record

"Diaries read many years later may give you a completely different insight, which is their real value." Tony Benn on his diaries. Page 14

Data bases

Offender profiling assumes that criminals leave not only material clues such as fingerprints but also behavioural clues. Simon Wessely helps the police with their investigations. Page 15

TRAVEL

Tax worry: Fears persist that business travellers could be taxed on frequent flyer schemes. Many executives use the perk to arrange holidays for themselves and their families. Page 20

ARTS

Whoopi wasted

"The credits insist a human being wrote the script, but I suspect someone just poured set ingredients into a blender." Geoff Brown on *Made in America*, the latest Whoopi Goldberg film. Other releases include a tale of adultery among the Parisian chattering classes, *Après L'Amour*. Page 33

Hamlet in rural Ireland

Why is the leading actress Fiona Shaw touring her own £140 production of *Hamlet* around Irish villages? Page 35

Flowers of Scotland

Two of Scotland's brightest cultural assets, the composer James MacMillan and the playwright Iain Hoggie, are collaborating on a new opera for the Edinburgh Festival. Page 35

THE TIMES TOMORROW

A fresh slant on Bernie Grant

■ Valerie Grove asks whether Bernie Grant, once the scourge of Haringey Council, is now a much-mellowed MP. Page 16

Not in front of the children

■ How can you stop children watching unsuitable programmes? "Smart" television could be the answer for parents. Page 17

Up to the ears in work

■ "I am lying on my back, enveloped in darkness and floating in a saline solution," writes David Toop. But of course — it is the only way to review the latest trend in rock: ambient music. Page 18

TV LISTINGS

The National Geographic's entertaining series of *Voyager* films turns to the game of wild polo, practised in the mountains of the Hindu Kush since the time of Alexander the Great (*Horses and Heroes*, ITV 7.30pm). Page 43

In dry dock

The government has agonised long over the navy's argument that only one dockyard was needed for a reduced fleet. Now that it has settled itself firmly between two stools and decided to keep both in business, ministers have no intention of reopening this most contentious of debates. Page 17

Courtroom class

The conditional fees system should radically improve the access of the middle classes to civil justice and thus correct a disgraceful anomaly in the legal system. If the reform proves successful, the Lord Chancellor should consider its extension to other areas. Page 17

Carnage in Kashmir

At the very least, India must act in accordance with its own, admirable constitution. It insists that Kashmiris are Indian citizens. It cannot, therefore, deny them their rights as citizens. Page 17

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

There should be a special train to take Prince William to watch a Test match at Old Trafford, supported by the ancient dukes, with the Bishop of Liverpool — himself once a notable England batsman — conducting the 1662 form of Morning Prayer in the restaurant car, and a jury to decide the fate of the England captain. Page 16

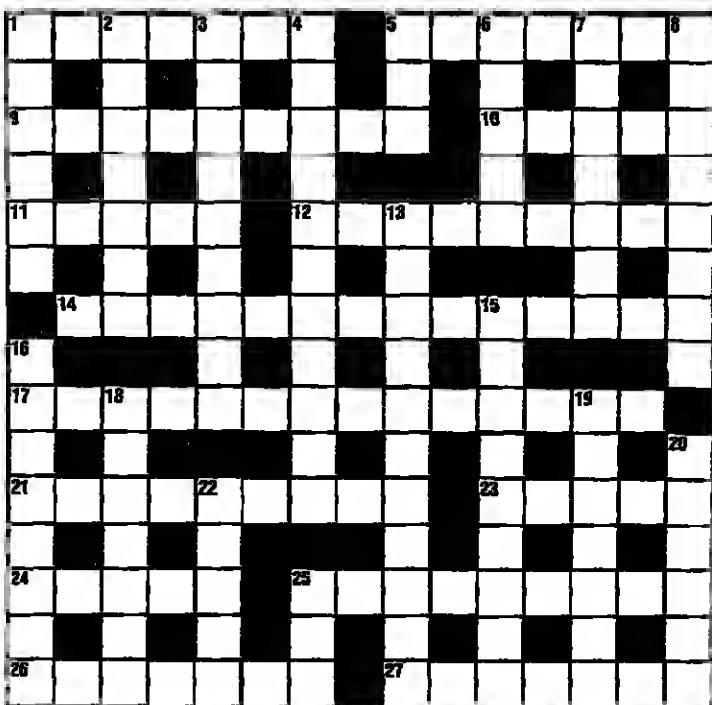
FRANCES KISSING

Lost in the pelvic zone, John Paul II increasingly insists on fidelity to his restrictive views on sex and reproduction. His is a repetitive and resounding message of "No" when it comes to sex. This is an ethic that does not resonate, it rumbles. Page 16

Comment on the working single mother who left her two-year-old at home alone. Page 17

Americans are realising two of the oldest truths. Sex sells and sells sells. And those who are caught in flagrante may pay and pay and pay. The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,307



- ACROSS**
- 1 Parisian artist last seen in "South Pacific", say (7).
 - 5 Witnessed fist fight with woodcut (7).
 - 9 Steps taken to counter the new ball (4,5).
 - 10 In the outcome, man's first partner has no trumps (5).
 - 11 Arles distorted in the strong light (5).
 - 12 Omission that may be taken as an offence (9).
 - 14 Declaration on foreign articles expressing less than the truth (1,4).
 - 17 Make a call here to dighen with a spanner (8,6).
 - 21 Metaculous head of Physis is away dealing with joints (9).
 - 23 Sound of deep brass exuding a vitality (5).
- DOWN**
- 2 Idealised mental picture of French friend going back to die (5).
 - 25 They press, even with metal clubs (4,5).
 - 26 One encouraging a punter (7).
 - 27 Permit is in fact cancelled (7).
 - 1 Born with loquacity, the French talk too fast (6).
 - 2 Out of bed and ready for toast? (7).
 - 3 Limer subject to deterioration (9).
 - 4 Translating in lesson can be incomprehensible (1,1).
 - 5 Interview for Oxford, for example (3).
 - 6 Ill-bred youth needs women's guidance (5).
 - 7 Piece of news is first in editor's list (7).
 - 8 A tide with an original borrowed from the classics (8).
 - 13 Husband in the bank, she is in hotel work (1,1).
 - 15 Prepare to publish report of college leader (9).
 - 16 Caught Asiatic form of neuralgia (8).
 - 18 Fruit-cake in a hard container (3,4).
 - 19 Stick to the punt — or put your foot in it (7).
 - 20 Tried to attain pure sound (6).
 - 22 Strike to get influence in politics (5).
 - 25 Douglas is said to be infirm (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,306

DAYLABOURERS
RENEWED
APARTMENT
URER
GENERAL
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BEARSKIN
IN
CONATION
ERROR
SCUSSE
CHARITIERHOUSE

Concise Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0851 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
South East	702
South West	703
West Midlands	704
East Midlands	705
North East	706
North West	707
Yorkshire & the Humber	708
East of England	709
West of England	710
Central Scotland	711
North Scotland	712
South Scotland	713
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	735
M-ways/roads M23-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Leicestershire	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	735
M-ways/roads M23-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Leicestershire	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp max 8am to 6pm, 20C (68F); min 6pm to 8am, 13C (55F). Humidity 60-70 per cent. Rain 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun 24hr to 6pm, 0.9hr. Bar, mean sea level, 1,006.4 millibars, falling.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp, Torquay, Devon, 21C (70F); lowest day temp, Maclean Ness, Shetland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall, Morcambe, Lancashire, 0.34in; highest sunshine, Leeds, 12.2hr.

WINDSPEED

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 20C (68F); min 6pm to 8am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.13in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.0.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 8am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.37in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.7hr.

South Wales and central and southern England will dawn dull, wet and windy, but it will turn drier and brighter, although with a few showers. Elsewhere it will be sunny at times, but with showers nearly everywhere and possibly thunder. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will turn mostly sunny. It will be a cool day. Outlook: the south dry and bright; Northern Britain will have rain tomorrow and sunshine and showers on Saturday.

MIDDAY: 1=thunder, 2=dizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=cloud, 6=sun, 7=rain, 8=cloud, 9=rain, 10=sun, 11=cloud, 12=sun

WIND: 1=light, 2=moderate, 3=strong, 4=very strong, 5=gale, 6=storm, 7=very storm, 8=hurricane, 9=typhoon, 10=cyclone, 11=monsoon, 12=tornado

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Usborne farms out new shares

Usborne, the grain merchant to pig producer, yesterday launched a £4.6 million two-for-five rights issue as it seeks to release working capital to expand its grain activities. The balance of the proceeds will replace the initial £1.75 million cash payment made last week to Unigate for 7,000 pigs.

Usborne forecast that it would make taxable profits of at least £1.57 million in the 18 months to end-June. There will be a final dividend of 0.4p, making a total for the 18 months of 0.8p.

Ward advances

Higher home sales have lifted Ward Holdings, the Kent housebuilder, into the black with a pre-tax profit of £347,000 (£1.8 million loss) for the six months to April 30. But margins continue to be squeezed due to repossession and unsold stock. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Reflex action

Reflex, the Irish software and computer services group, returned profits of £136,000 (£292,000) in the six months to end-June, against a £4.5 million loss in the eight months to end-December. Earnings per share of 12.0p replace losses of 12.6p. There is no interim dividend.

Armitage rises

Pre-tax profits at Armitage Brothers, the pet foods and accessories maker, edged up to £875,000 from £851,000 in the year to end-May, but earnings fell to 14.6p (16.4p) because of a £100,000 tax credit last year. A final dividend of 3.6p makes a total of 6.2p (6p) for the year.

Amber sale

Amber Industrial Holdings has sold Causeway Steel Products to Sterling Industries for £1.2 million. It is selling the firm, which serves oil refineries, to raise cash to expand in specialty chemicals.



Seasonal boost: holiday travellers helped Sir John Egan's BAA to its busiest month, 8.3 million passengers in July

Long-haul passengers boost traffic at BAA

By CARL MORTIMER

Air traffic is growing but Gatwick remains a problem for BAA, having lost a large chunk of its scheduled traffic to Heathrow under new distribution rules

HOLIDAY traffic through airports provided a seasonal boost to BAA in July with a 4.4 per cent rise in passenger numbers over that month in 1992. BAA hailed the figures as its busiest month ever, having handled 8.3 million passengers, and the market welcomed the news, marking the shares up 9p to 306p.

Analysts were more cautious, pointing to BAA's own predictions of 4 per cent traffic growth for the year to March 1994. "It's marginally better than forecast in the peak period," said one. Last year, BAA, where Sir John Egan is chief executive, benefited from traffic growth of 7.9 per cent

numbers to 302,000 in July. Gatwick remains BAA's problem, having lost a large chunk of its scheduled traffic to Heathrow after deregulation of traffic distribution rules. Some 24 airlines moved flights to Heathrow to benefit from the greater number of high-yielding business passengers who travel through the international airport.

Gatwick's traffic grew by less than 1 per cent in July, bringing the rate of increase

down to 4.2 per cent. BAA's Scottish airports, including Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, scored better with a 5.3 per cent increase in traffic in the month.

Michael Maine, group technical director, has collected £216,700 after cashing in options granted to him under the BAA senior employee share scheme. BAA said it had allotted 49,275 ordinary shares to Mr Maine. Of the total, 16,000 shares were allotted at 27p per share, 11,880 at 34p and 22,095 at 42p. He subsequently sold 47,275 of the allotted shares for 794p each.

Travel pages 20, 21
Times pages 20, 21

Eurorail plays down threat from Germans

By MARTIN WALLER AND COLIN NARBROUGH

MEMBERS of the Eurorail consortium, the only British contender to build the high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel, have dismissed reports that a big German contractor might have leapfrogged into pole position to win the £3 billion order.

Construction cannot start at the earliest until 1995, a year after the necessary enabling legislation is laid before Parliament. In June, about 100 different builders, merchant banks and consultants were contacted by the Department of Transport and asked if they were prepared to take part in the project.

They included a number of overseas building firms, including Hochtief, the biggest German construction group. The parties were not asked to tender competitively but to provide "ideas and advice" on the building of the rail link, the DOT said last night.

A spokesman denied reports that the Germans had been approached privately to make a bid for the work. "There are many other companies still involved; they are no better placed than many others." A third of those contacted were prepared to participate.

A Hochtief spokesman confirmed that the company was approached in June because it was willing to take part using its own risk capital. He did not think the invitation meant it had won a contract.

Eurorail, which comprises Trafalgar House, BICC and new member GEC, remains confident that it will be favourite to win the contract. "We believe we have very, very good credentials," said one member. "The government is committed to a competitive tender, but there could be a political outcry if the work goes to a foreign concern."

A new Holiday Inn every second day

HOLIDAY Inn, the world's biggest hotel chain that is owned by Bass, has opened a new hotel every other day since the start of the year, the company said. It added that this rate of new openings topped the previous peak in the late 1980s. Since 1993 began, 91 Holiday Inns have opened, 66 of them in the Americas. This has added 13,000 rooms to the brand, reaching a total of 337,000 rooms in 1,750 hotels.

Bass and Grupo Situr de Mexico have agreed to develop at least 10 Holiday Inn Express hotels. Another 20 will be built in Germany, seven in France, and seven in South Africa. The Holiday Inn also plans to develop six hotels in Britain and the Benelux countries in conjunction with Queens Moat Houses.

Sale for Forth Ports

FORTH Ports, the Scottish ports authority privatised in a £30 million float last year, has sold an office development to the government for £47.5 million. Property Holdings is buying the 300,000 sq ft building at Victoria Quay, Leith, to house the Scottish Office. However, the government may get some of its money back. Forth Ports' property deals have got it assessed for clawback in the first ten years of private ownership, with 25 per cent of any surplus gained payable to the government.

Engineer in profit alert

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the Manchester engineering and metals group, has warned shareholders to expect a further decline in profits. The grim statement from Martin Llewellyn, chairman, followed a 38 per cent plunge to £2.07 million in profits for the half-year to June. Mr Llewellyn now expects second-half results to be still worse. He said the company's order book had deteriorated and that the light engineering division had suffered particularly. The shares fell 9p to 39p.

Metal Bulletin shines

METAL Bulletin, the international business publishing and conference group, has increased interim pre-tax profits to £871,300 from £711,600 last time. In the six months to end-June, sales rose to £5.9 million (£5.8 million) and earnings per share to 6p (5.1p). The interim dividend is lifted from 2.7p to 2.9p. The company said it was optimistic of a fifth successive year of profit growth thanks to the strong performance in its core business of global information services.

Damp start for Vimto

DISMAL early summer weather has held back the trading performance of JN Nichols (Vimto). In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits were static at £3.4 million (£3.5 million) on sales of £24.1 million (£23.6 million). The company says the second half has started slowly, with no sign of sustained better weather or increased consumer spending. During the first half, earnings per share fell from 14.8p to 14.4p, while the interim dividend rises from 5.1p to 5.4p.

COMMERCIAL UNION

SIX MONTHS' REVIEW

Strong increase in profits

- ★ Pre-tax profit of £65.5m after a charge of £25m in respect of the City of London bomb.
- ★ Selective expansion of life and general insurance business continues.
- ★ General insurance trading continues to recover strongly, especially in the United Kingdom.
- ★ Life profits increase to £57.6m.
- ★ Shareholders' funds £1,977m.

HIGHLIGHTS

	6 months 1993	6 months 1992
	Unaudited	Unaudited
Total premium income	£3,037m	£2,377m
Operating profit/(loss) before taxation	£65.5m	£(18.1)m
Operating profit/(loss) after taxation	£47.5m	£(23.7)m
Operating profit/(loss) per share (note)	7.6p	(5.2)p
Interim dividend per share (note)	15.10p	8.95p

Note: 1992 figures adjusted for the rights issue.

Interim dividend and enhanced scrip dividend alternative

Subject to shareholders' approval, a 50% enhanced scrip dividend alternative to the interim dividend is proposed. The interim dividend is 15.10p per share, equivalent to the 1992 declared final dividend, thereby accelerating part of the total dividend for the year.

Full details of this proposal, together with notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting will be sent to shareholders on 1 September 1993. The payment of the interim dividend will be brought forward to 13 October 1993 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 26 August 1993.

The interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 18 August 1993. Members of the public may obtain copies of the report after this date by writing to the Shareholder Relations Service, at the address below, or by telephoning 071-283 7500, ext. 28866.

Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

To the shareholders of Great Nordic Holding Ltd.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Tuesday 31 August 1993 at 3.00 pm at the registered office of the Company, Kongers Nytorv 26, DK-1016 Copenhagen K, to transact the following business:

- To receive and consider the report for the twelve months ended 30 June 1993.
- To receive and adopt the annual financial statements and discharge the Board of Directors and the Management from their obligations.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution for the distribution of the net profit for the year, including the declaration of a dividend on the shares of the Company.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that a number of minor amendments to the Articles of Association of the Company be adopted in compliance with the provisions of the Danish Companies Act as amended; Article 7: contents of the notice convening a general meeting; Article 8: the time of the ordinary general meeting; Article 9: share registration requirements; Article 14: representation at a general meeting of temporarily non-voting shares.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that the Company be entitled to acquire up to 10 per cent of its own shares.
- To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.
- To appoint two auditors to audit the financial statements for the current financial year.

For the passing of the resolution set out under item d. on the agenda, which is proposed by a unanimous Board of Directors, it is required under Article 14, subarticle 5, of the Articles of Association that the resolution be approved by not less than two thirds of the votes cast and two thirds of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting.

From Monday 23 August 1993 the agenda and the full and complete resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting, as well as the annual financial statements with the Auditors' Report and the Report of the Directors, will be available for inspection by the shareholders at the Company's registered office, Kongers Nytorv 26, second floor, DK-1016 Copenhagen K, and at the address of the Company's bank in London, and not later than eight days prior to the General Meeting the said material will be posted to any shareholder on the Company's register of members to such address as has been given to the Company.

Shareholders whose shares are registered in the names of the holders and entered in the register of members maintained by the Company will receive with the Annual Report and Accounts an order form, which should be completed and returned by any shareholder who wishes to receive an admission card and, possibly, a ballot paper for the General Meeting. For a shareholder to be entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting under the existing Articles of Association, the order form must reach the Company not later than five days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any shareholder who is not on the Company's register may obtain an admission card and ballot paper from the Company's office on all weekdays (excluding Saturdays) between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm until five days prior to the date of the General Meeting by presenting a statement of his or her holding of shares in the Company, dated 20 August 1993 and issued by the shareholder's account-holding bank.

Shareholders who have acquired their shares by way of transfer are qualified to vote only on condition that they are entitled to attend and, before or at the time of the notice convening the General Meeting, either have arranged for their shares to be entered in the Company's register of members or have submitted notification and documentary proof of their acquisition of shares in the Company.

No director is employed with the Company under a contract of service.

Yours sincerely
The Board of Directors of GN Great Nordic Holding Ltd.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE ALL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE CALL DEBRA GYNN
TEL: 071-782 7344 or FAX: 071-481 9313

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE MATTER OF KENT FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, a MEETING OF THE CREDITORS OF the above-named Company will be held on 10 September 1993 at 4.00 pm at 120, Strand, London WC2R 0JH, to consider the proposed arrangement for the payment of the debts of the Company.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, a MEETING OF THE CREDITORS OF the above-named Company will be held on 10 September 1993 at 4.00 pm at 120, Strand, London WC2R 0JH, to consider the proposed arrangement for the payment of the debts of the Company.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES NO. 004278 of 1993
In the Matter of
MASTER TAVENDES LIMITED
ON LIQUIDATION
Notice is hereby given that the Liquidator of the above-named Company, N.G. ATKINSON, has received from the Secretary of the company a copy of the proposed arrangement for the payment of the debts of the company.

PUBLIC NOTICES

POTATO MARKETING BOARD THE POTATO MARKETING SCHEME ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT MEMBERS 1993

The Potato Marketing Board announces that elections for members to represent certain of its Districts will be held on Wednesday 27th October 1993 in accordance with the requirements of the Scheme. The Board's 1993 Districts for which elections are to take place are listed below, together with the names of the incumbent members.

Name of District	Area	Current Member
Southern East Angles	Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and London (inc. the City of London)	P O Rie
Central England	Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset	C A Stevens
Wales	Wales and Monmouthshire	J A Davies
East Riding of Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire	P B T Bell

Nominations in writing, and a deposit of £100 in respect of each candidate, must be lodged with the Potato Marketing Board at 200, Fife House, 22nd September 1993, latest. The Board will then hold a meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 1993 at 10.00 am to elect the members of the Board. The Board will then hold a meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 1993 at 10.00 am to elect the members of the Board. The Board will then hold a meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 1993 at 10.00 am to elect the members of the Board.

4 Between Towns Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 9NA
I R CARTWRIGHT, SECRETARY
August 1993

Rover shows British industry the road to the future



That was then: the 200 series Vitesse EFI, produced in the days when Sir Graham Day was Rover's chairman

This is now: the 220 Turbo Coupé typifies the transformed style of the company, now headed by George Simpson

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TODAY is the fifth anniversary of the contentious sale by the British government of the Rover car group to British Aerospace. Contentious because of the lack of obvious industrial synergy, as much as for the tens of millions of pounds in illegal aid that ministers tried unsuccessfully to conceal from the European Commission.

From the day the deal was announced there was speculation that BAe would cash in its chips at the earliest opportunity. From today, even the state aid approved by the commission will not have to be repaid in the event of a sale. Yet BAe continues to insist, as it has for the past half-decade, "Rover is a core business. We have no plans to sell it."

Confound the sceptics, BAe has proved a good steward of Rover's assets and ethos. The place-maker has simply left Rover and its managers to carry through a transformation that

has become a showcase for the modernisation of British industry. Rover, now chaired by George Simpson, was well started on the road to renewal by the time Professor Roland Smith, then BAe's chairman, turned up to do his "deal of the decade". Sir Graham Day, a government appointee, had drawn up plans to make the Rover marque a kind of British BMW. A technology-sharing partnership with Honda has helped the company rebuild its model range, supplanting cars such as the Maestro and Montego with the Rover 200, 400, 600 and 800.

As Mark Dichlan, an analyst at BZW, remarks: "You can see for yourself the company has changed. These are cars people want to buy."

The new model programme has gone hand in hand with modernisation of the company's manufacturing plants at Cowley, Oxfordshire and Longbridge in Birmingham and a much-publicised jobs-for-life undertaking to the workforce in exchange for high levels of flexibility.

But the threat of extermination by Japanese implant factories has brought a far wider reform. Labour costs are only 15 per cent of the price of a car. Rover is devoting great effort to reducing component costs through a closer partnership with a smaller number of suppliers, and it is crafting closer links with its dealers.

These reforms are designed to cut the break-even point for the business from 500,000 to 400,000 cars a year. Rover's excessive dependence on the UK market left it exposed to the recession and delayed revival. To date only the Land-Rover four-wheel-drive business, led by the all-British Discovery, is making a profit. The economic slowdown in continental Europe will impose a new brake on progress. Even so, Mr Dichlan predicts that the £51 million underlying loss in the car business in the year to last December will be replaced by a £30 million profit this year, rising to £80 million in 1994. Returns will remain modest when set against the multibillion pound turnover

and massive investment, but even a tiny improvement in margins can throw off a lot of profit, all sheltered by massive inherited tax losses. No wonder BAe is in no rush to sell. "They would get a much better price for it in three years' time," Mr Dichlan says.

But why should BAe sell? And if it does, why should it sell out completely? Under John Cahill, its new-broom chairman, and Richard Lapthorne, finance director, BAe has refashioned itself through a spider's web of joint ventures.

Rover already has a partner, Honda, and partnership cuts two ways. While Honda owns 20 per cent of Rover, Rover has similar stake in Honda's UK manufacturing plant, which assembles the Honda Accord. Honda engines from Swindon go into Rover 200 and 400 cars, as well as the Honda Concerto produced by Rover on its Longbridge production lines. Just to complete the jigsaw, Honda now sells the Discovery in Japan, rebadged as the Honda Crossroad. Even if BAe's

stake were for sale, asset-strippers need not apply. Of course, it is not inconceivable that some of Rover's equity could once more be listed on the stock market. More probable is the introduction of a third partner to the collaboration.

Japan's car industry, after all, is in trouble. Its domestic market is crumbling and overseas rivals are fast absorbing the lessons of Japanese productivity and quality achievements, while side-stepping its errors of over-investment. Japanese manufacturers are vying with one another, and with American assemblers, to fill gaps in product range and spread currency risk. Why should Honda and Rover be any different?

Each is too small to be a truly global player. Each has shown itself able to make a success of international alliances. And each has skills, ideas and sound products to offer.

A dilution of BAe's stake in Rover may happen, but only when the time is right and the industrial logic is strong. August 12, 1993, perhaps?

CU jumps into black despite costs of bomb

By SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL Union, the composite insurer, confirmed the strength of recovery in the insurance sector with an interim pre-tax profit of £65.5 million, a sharp improvement from the £18.1 million loss incurred last time.

The growth in pre-tax profits, in the six months to end June, was achieved despite a £25 million loss that resulted from claims relating to the bomb blast in the City of London in April.

Tony Brend, chief executive, said that the strong recovery "reflected significantly better results from the general insurance operations, particularly in the UK".

General insurance made a £7.9 million profit against a £68.8 million loss in the comparable period last time, helped by "significant rate

A significant recovery in general insurance operations in Britain underpinned a return to profit at Commercial Union and an increase in the interim dividend

increases and new business in the UK", said Mr Brend, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Underwriting losses in the UK fell from £95.9 million to £56.6 million, in spite of a charge of £21 million relating to the bomb blast in the City of London in April.

The improvement in the UK helped to reduce the insurer's overall underwriting loss from £205.2 million to £165.4 million.

Excluding the UK, the group experienced a deterioration in underwriting results from most of its territories. In America, losses rose from £39.8 million to £46 million while Canada reported an

underwriting loss of £15 million, up from £12.4 million.

In America, despite the worsening in the underwriting result, Commercial Union lifted pre-tax profits from £17.4 million to £29.6 million. This was primarily due to an increase in net investment income from £54.1 million to £69.7 million.

Overall net investment income advanced from £129.4 million to £168.9 million, helped by February's £428 million of rights issue proceeds and exchange rate movements. This was partly offset by lower interest rates.

The rights issue coupled with buoyant stock markets

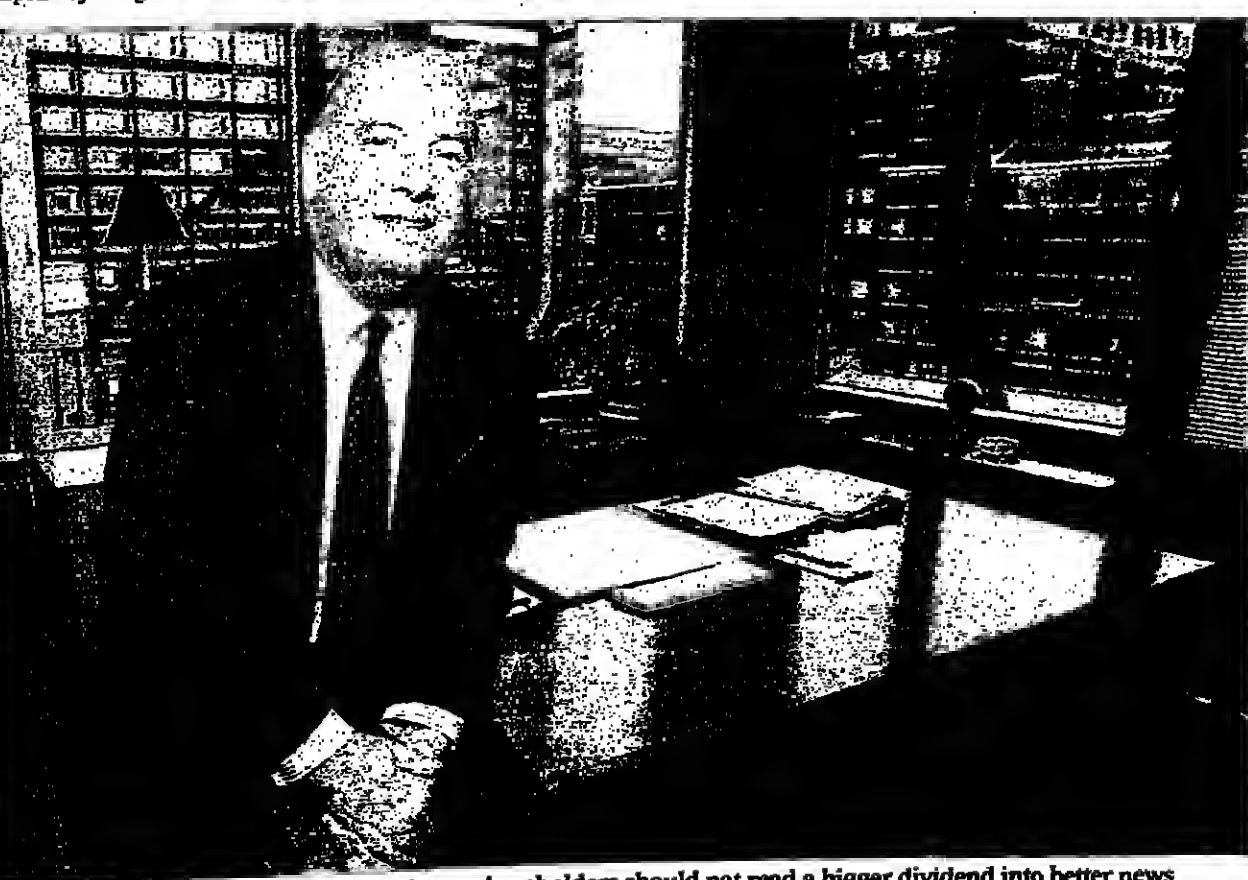
prompted a rise in shareholders' funds from £1,501 million to £1,977 million. The group's life profits increased from £50.7 million to £57.6 million.

Commercial Union is offering shareholders an enhanced scrip dividend alternative and as a result has brought forward part of the final dividend.

This resulted in an interim dividend of 15.1p a share, compared with 8.95p last time, and which equates to the total for last year. The shares rose 12p to 66p.

Mr Brend emphasised that the move was to avoid an irrecoverable advance corporation tax problem and the decision to match last year's total dividend at the interim stage was not meant to send a signal to shareholders that a lift in the final dividend is in the pipeline.

Tempus, page 27



Cautious overview: Tony Brend says shareholders should not read a bigger dividend into better news

UK funds flow to jewel of the Limpopo

By COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

THE River Ranch diamond mine lies two kilometres north of "the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees". Yesterday, London institutions contributed most of the £31.7 million (£890,000) raised by Carr Kilsat & Aitken, the broker, on behalf of Redaumur Red Lake Mines, which is quoted in Toronto and is developing the alluvial diamond deposit in Zimbabwe.

Since March last year, River Ranch has produced 50,000 carats, of which 43,500 carats have been sold outside of the Central Selling Organisation and direct on to the Antwerp market.

River Ranch was once worked by De Beers. However, after what is best described as a disagreement over Zimbabwe's insistence that a certain percentage of any diamonds mined in Zimbabwe be marketed and sold through the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe, its state marketing arm, De Beers gave up

its prospecting licence in 1991 and dismantled its working plant.

Mysteriously, no past records of drilling that would otherwise have been lodged in the government's geological data bank were found when the new owners bought the property.

Redaumur is a joint partner with Auridiam Consolidated of Australia, and together they own Auridiam Zimbabwe (Private) (AZPL), which has land tenure for 25 years, with a 25-year renewable option.

Mr Robin Baxter-Brown, a geologist with more than 36 years experience in the field, and who between 1955 and 1959 worked for De Beers, joined Redaumur in April this year.

Redaumur became a 50 per cent shareholder in River Ranch through its reverse takeover last month of Cornerstone Investments, whose sole asset was a half interest in AZPL.

Mr Baxter-Brown says that after the purchase of equipment from Kitz that was no longer being used in Matikeng, South Africa, production will increase in

two stages to nearly 300,000 carats annually. "We will never be a threat to the CSO," he added.

After De Beers "left" River Ranch, Julian Ogilvie Thompson, De Beers' chairman, said of the mine that "it really is only a tiny little deposit. It was only going to produce a very small amount of diamonds, not worth very much".

De Beers has recently been "invited back for talks in Zimbabwe". Mr Ogilvie Thompson said "they asked us to come and see them again. They didn't give their reasons too clearly".

Mr Baxter-Brown said 60 per cent of River Ranch's diamonds were higher value gem quality, and that the deposit is estimated to contain nearly 5 million carats.

Several "large" stones have already been found, including a 29-carat light Cape stone, which fetched \$110,000, and a 17-carat stone, which realised \$95,000.

The company has other diamond target areas in Zimbabwe under its loupe and expects River Ranch to move into full production by next year.

Daily Mail group in £50m bond issue

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DAILY Mail and General Trust, the media empire which includes Associated Newspapers, launched a £50 million bond issue yesterday, fuelling speculation that it is seeking to buy a stake in Newspaper Publishing, the struggling owners of *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*.

Associated Newspapers is believed to be interested in becoming a major shareholder in Newspaper Publishing alongside *La Repubblica*, the

Italian newspaper owned by Carlo de Benedetti, and the Spanish publishers of *El Pais*, which each hold 18 per cent.

Discussions between the two British newspaper groups are believed to have taken place on price. This follows the public admission by Ian Hay Davison, chairman of Newspaper Publishing, that he is looking for a third major equity shareholder in order to refinance the beleaguered company, which has been hit hard by falling sales of its

titles and the sharp downturn in advertising revenue during the recession.

Associated is said to be interested in adding a broadsheet title to its successful stable of mid-market titles, the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*.

The £50 million of bonds issued by its parent company, which carry a coupon of 5½ per cent, are exchangeable into Reuters ordinary shares at 27 per cent conversion premium.

This is the fourth time Daily Mail and General Trust has used its holding in Reuters to leverage the group. It said the proceeds of the issue would be used for "general corporate purposes" including reducing debts.

Abbey National Treasury Services has increased to 200 billion Italian lire (£83 million) from 150 billion lire the size of its 10 per cent callable seven-year Eurobond, launched on July 30. The new paper has a 104.175 per cent issue price.

TENDER FOR JOBCLUB SERVICES

The Employment Service would like to receive expressions of interest from any organisation which might wish to be invited to tender for Jobclub Services.

As part of its programme of market testing the Employment Service, an Executive Agency of the Employment Department Group, responsible for job placement and the payment of benefits and allowances to unemployed people, is looking for potential suppliers of local Jobclub services. Jobclubs are designed to help: long term clients, people with disabilities, clients living in inner-city areas, those with learning difficulties and people at professional, executive and management level to find employment.

Expressions of interest are invited to supply this service, at a range of local sites across the country. It is likely that these will fall within the boundaries of the following Employment Service Regional Offices: Office for Scotland, Office for Wales, Northern, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, East

Midlands and Eastern, West Midlands, London and South East, South West.

Any contract awarded is likely to be for a two year duration with phased implementation by April 1994.

Organisations expressing interest will be sent a supplier appraisal questionnaire and invitation to tender which seeks background information on the company, details of its accounts, trading history, previous customers and staff competencies for the work.

Expressions of interest should include details of the Regions or locations for which they are interested in bidding and current membership of any professional bodies or standards operated.

Expressions of interest in writing only should be sent to the address below to be received no later than 25 August 1993; quoting reference 003. Supplier appraisal questionnaires and tenders must be returned by 12 noon on 17 September 1993.

Correspondence after this date will not be considered.

Lynne Middleton, Market Testing Unit,
Employment Services, Level 2, Mayfield Court, Sheffield S1 4ER.



EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE

Resumed bull run pushes prices through key 3,000 level

SHARE prices on the London stock market powered to a new high in active trading, finally breaching the key 3,000 level as the bull run resumed with a vengeance.

Investors are increasingly hopeful for interest rate cuts soon, with sentiment lifted in the wake of the Bank of England's upbeat inflation forecast and a cheerful CBI regional survey.

In spite of a negative start, shares continued their roller-coaster ride as a surge in FT-SE futures sparked a rally in the cash market in conditions described by traders as "squeezed", pushing the index to a new intra-day high of 3,010.1.

further pressure on the Chancellor to reduce UK rates in the autumn.

A positive start on Wall Street further bolstered sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index finished up 34.5 points at a new peak of 3,006.1. Second-liners also fared well, with the FT-SE Mid ending 23.8 higher at 3,430.6. Volume rose to 830.4 million shares.

Peter Cartwright, head of research at Williams de Broe, said that the latest French rate cut had prompted investors to buy high-yielding stocks such as Hanson, up 34p to 255.4p, and the water companies.

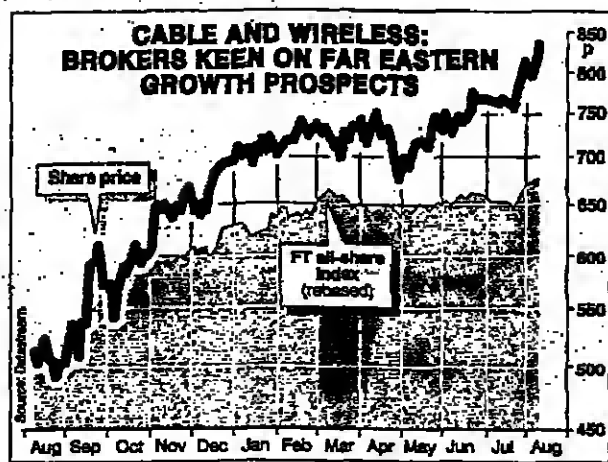
Property shares rose strongly, helped by gains in bonds and a buy recommendation from James Capel. Andrew Causier, property analyst at James Capel, said his house had reaffirmed its positive stance on the sector and upgraded asset values across

the board. The move is based on the view that as bond yields tumble, so will property yields. That, in turn, means property company net asset values will be higher than people had anticipated.

Capel is positive on most shares in the sector, but its preferred buys include Land Securities, up 15p to 660p, MEPC, 15p stronger at 493p, Slough Estates, 8p firmer at 238p, and British Land, which has finalised its partnership with George Soros's Quantum Fund, up 8p to 366p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Hammerson A rose 11p to 349p, Great Portland 5p to 437p and Southend Property 5p to 65p.

James Capel was also said to be recommending buys for General Accident, up 11p to 694p, Sedgwick, off 2p to 205p, Saatchi & Saatchi, down 6p to 162p, Williams,



up 1p to 337p, and British Airways, 84p built on Tuesday's 14.5p gain, adding another 5.5p to 333.5p in response to broker upgrades and 4.4 per cent rise in July passenger traffic. BAA, up 6p to 803p, was also firmer after reporting its busiest month

ever, with about 8.3 million passengers using the group's seven airports last month.

Cable and Wireless advanced 17p to a new high of 835p, boosted by a reiterated buy recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laing on the back of rising volumes in the

Far East and optimism about Mercury's prospects.

Simon Nixon, an analyst at CLIL, said: "We think the share price will continue to out-perform given the rising volume in Far East traffic and the strong progress at Mercury. We are very bullish on the Far East. We think they've got the potential to grow Hong Kong dollar earnings by 15 per cent in the current year."

James Capel was said to have placed 1.3 million shares in Anglian Group at about 327.5p. Anglian firmed 2p to 341p, on volume of 4.5 million.

Commercial Union jumped 12p to 661p after unveiling profits at the top end of City's expectations and an almost doubled interim dividend payout. Elsewhere in the sector, GRE added 4p to 207p, Royal Insurance 7p to 344p, and Sun Alliance 7p to 397p. However, the misery continued for BOC, with the

industrial gases and health-care group suffering further in the wake of its profits warning and widespread broker downgrades on Tuesday. The shares fell another 5p to 646p, giving a two-day loss of 68p.

But British Gas moved further ahead, advancing 13.5p to 328p, on heavy volume of 22 million shares. BT also continued to find favour, with the fully-paid shares, 34p up at 429.5p, on volume of 16 million, and the partly-paid ahead 4.5p to 186p, on volume of 12 million.

NatWest reiterated its sell recommendation on Whitbread, the A shares up 17.5p to 533p, with some concern about the possible impact on the brewer of foreign larger imports into UK supermarkets. HSBC put on a strong showing, adding 23p to 744p as the combination of Midland's results and HSBC's

forthcoming profits announcement had investors buying the stock. Abbey National rose 8p to 414p, Barclays 7p to 505p, and Lloyds 10p to 544p. Standard Chartered, which is due to report interims today, climbed 16p to 896p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts enjoyed further strong gains, with bonds surging to record levels in the wake of the Bank of England's bullish inflation report and the French interest rate cut.

Gains at the longer end stretched to more than one full point, while shorts were more than 1.5 better.

The Bank took advantage of the buoyant conditions to issue £1.2 billion of additional gilt taps. The long gilt future advanced 28 ticks to a new peak of £122.92, on heavy volume of 62,000 contracts.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Company Notice



General Accident plc

RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1993

	6 Months to 30.6.93 Estimate £million	6 Months to 30.6.92 Estimate £million	1992 Year Actual £million
Premium Income			
General Business	2,107.0	1,909.7	3,831.5
Long Term Business	413.7	357.0	790.4
	2,520.7	2,266.7	4,621.9
Investment Income	248.2	240.0	504.9
Estate Agency Result	(4.5)	(9.9)	(18.8)
Underwriting -			
General Business Result	(129.0)	(235.2)	(510.1)
Long Term Business Profit	20.9	14.6	34.8
	135.6	9.5	10.8
Less Interest on Loans	9.4	24.9	40.1
Profit (loss) before Taxation	126.2	(15.4)	(29.3)
Taxation - U.K. and Overseas	21.0	(1.1)	(4.1)
Profit (loss) after Taxation	105.2	(14.3)	(25.2)
Minority Interests	(0.3)	0.5	1.7
Net Profit (loss) attributable to Shareholders	105.5	(14.8)	(26.9)
Earnings per Ordinary Share	21.5p	(3.4p)	(7.0p)
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.49	\$1.51	\$1.51
Canada	\$1.92	\$1.93	\$1.93

Notes
The above results of the General Accident Group for the six months ended 30th June 1993, estimated and unaudited, are compared with those for the similar period in 1992, which are restated at 31st December 1992 rates of exchange. Also shown are the actual results for the full year 1992. These results do not comprise the statutory accounts for 1992 which have been audited without qualification and filed with the Registrar of Companies.

There are no "discontinued operations" or "acquisitions" as defined in FRSS.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	6 months to 30.6.93 Premium Income £m	6 months to 30.6.92 Premium Income £m	6 months to 30.6.93 Underwriting Result £m	6 months to 30.6.92 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	681.5	3.5	600.1	(104.8)
U.S.A.	679.2	(74.1)	676.8	(81.6)
Canada	322.5	(7.1)	223.4	(2.4)
Pacific	170.2	2.5	162.6	(3.1)
Europe other than U.K.	120.0	(20.2)	112.9	(20.6)
Other Overseas	54.7	(11.4)	56.7	(6.0)
London Market Business incl. Internal Reinsurance	78.9	(22.2)	77.2	(16.7)
	2,107.0	(129.0)	1,909.7	(235.2)

Commenting on the results, Mr Nelson Robertson, General Accident's Group Chief Executive, said:

"With an improvement of almost £142m at the pre-tax level, we have achieved a significant recovery in our operating performance at the half year.
"An outstanding feature of the result is the achievement of an underwriting profit in the UK where the benefits of rating action, more selective underwriting procedures and cost controls produced a substantial and continuing improvement in our performance in the second quarter.
"We have also made progress in other major markets. In the US, where we have applied corrective action to unprofitable lines, we continue to benefit from the successful introduction of new lines. In Canada, we performed well and reported an excellent profit in the second quarter. We also produced a good profit in the Pacific at the half year and saw strong premium growth in Asia.
"Long-term business continues to progress and has made a substantially increased contribution to profits.
"Net investment income has shown a satisfactory increase during the six months as interest charges continue to fall in line with significantly reduced borrowings.
"In summary, we have made substantial progress at the half year and we expect this positive trend to be maintained. To this end we shall take further corrective action in those areas which continue to produce an unacceptable underwriting return.
"The continuing improvement in our asset value and a return to acceptable levels of profitability further enhances our financial strength and our ability to take full advantage of the opportunities for profitable growth."

Long Term Business
New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first six months were £26.0m (1992 £20.3m) and single premiums £176.2m (1992 £159.5m).

Dividend
The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1993 of 9.7p per share (1992 9.7p per share) costing £43.7m (1992 £43.6m) payable on or after 1st January 1994 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members at close of business on 29th October 1993.

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the Company in lieu of the cash dividend.

Net Assets Per Share/Worldwide Solvency
Current 31.12.92
As at 6.8.93 394p 331p
Solvency Margin Worldwide 48.9% 41.5%
These calculations do not take account of the value of the long term assurance business. Current figures are estimated and include an appropriate amount for dividend and trading result up to 6th August 1993. The solvency margin worldwide includes a full year estimate of premium income in respect of direct general insurance business acquired from Prudential in Canada on 30th November 1992.

A full copy of the interim announcement for 1993 can be obtained from: The Secretary, General Accident plc, Pinehills, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.



Hands on: Floor traders sending signals at the stock exchange in Tokyo

Japanese trade surplus for July soars to \$11.82bn

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus leapt for the 31st successive month last month, underlining the urgency of the issue for the country's new government.

The customs-cleared trade surplus with the rest of the world jumped to \$11.82 billion last month from \$9.23 billion in the same month last year, the finance ministry said. In June, it stood at \$9.97 billion.

The surplus with America climbed to \$4.68 billion from \$3.81 billion a year earlier, the ministry said.

Morihito Hosokawa, the prime minister said at his first press conference on Tuesday that reviving Japan's economy — which is passing through its worst post-war recession — and reducing the trade surplus with America were among his government's priority targets.

Mr Hosokawa's coalition took power on Monday, ending 38 years of Liberal Democratic party rule.

Mr Hosokawa said that he would consider ways to encourage Japanese to buy more, ease regulations and allow more foreign goods into the country to try to balance trade with America.

However, Hidehiro Iwaki, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute, said: "It is going to be very difficult to

Japan's new prime minister says he will consider ways to ease import restrictions and to make consumers buy more foreign goods to try to balance trade with America

reduce that surplus quickly." He said that there were two ways for Japan to cut the surplus, one by opening its markets and the second by stimulating domestic demand.

"The most effective measure for the short term would be to stimulate the economy," Mr Iwaki added.

"Hopefully, the economy will recover and imports will start to grow over exports, so that by the middle of next year the trade surplus will go down. But the United States may not be that patient."

Last month's rise in the surplus came as increases in exports outpaced imports by a wide margin, due to the yen's recent gains against the dollar, economists said.

Exports climbed 9 per cent to \$32.18 billion, while imports edged up only 0.4 per cent to \$20.37 billion.

A rise in the yen increases the value of Japan's dollar-based exports even if the volume of shipments remains unchanged, the economists noted. The US dollar fell to another record low against the Japanese yen yesterday as renewed worries over the sta-

bility of European currencies led to buying of the yen. Tokyo share prices gained for the third consecutive day.

At one point, the dollar plunged to 103.65 yen, below its previous modern low of 103.85 yen set in New York last Thursday. It closed at 103.77 yen, down 0.70 yen from Tuesday's close and its lowest finish in Tokyo since modern exchange rates were set in the late 1940s.

On the stock market, the Nikkei average closed at 20,722.57, up 25.82 points, or 0.17 per cent. On Tuesday, the index had posted an insignificant gain of 0.70 points to 20,493.75.

Although Japan adopted a 13.2 trillion yen (\$8.13 million) government package in April to stimulate the economy, clear signs of a recovery have not surfaced, economists said.

Mr Hosokawa said that the effects of the April package had not yet shown and finance ministry officials have been predicting that impact will not filter down into the economy until later in the year.

Tempus, page 27

RECENT ISSUES

Bakerychik (120)	141	-4	Johnson Fry Ultra Zero Pt 106	106	+
BT (Partly Paid) (150)	186	+4.5	Knowlton Mktg Mktg 100	106	+
Celsis International (100)	108	...	do-Eng Mktg Wms 62	...	...
Court Cavendish (225)	187	...	Lazard High Inc Tst (100)	109	+3.1
Dunedin Japan Inv (100)	97	...	Martin Currie Pwms 65	...	...
Dunedin Japan Inv Wts 52	...	...	Perpetual Jap Inv (100)	106	...
Eurotunnel Warrants 1993	24	+1.5	Perpetual Jap Wts 55	...	...
Explura A 34	...	...	Polity Portfolio (130)	144	-1
Field Group (250)	291	...	Quadrant (1123)	136	...
Fine Decor (210)	266	...	Raglan Warrants 24	...	...
Finsbury Smaller Cos C 153	...	...	Second HGSC 102	...	...
Flying Flowers (65)	77	...	Sharelink Inv Servs (250)	305	...
Gowat Emerging Mkts 110	...	...	RIGHTS ISSUES	...	...
Gowat Emerging Mkts Wts 53	...	...	Alliance Res n/p (5)	...	...
Johnson Fry Ultra (100)	115	...	Bardon n/p (140)	11	+1.5

INDICATOR CHANGES

RSSES:		
HSBC	744p (+23p)	
Henderson Admin	980p (+62p)	
Rank Org	784p (+20p)	
AOT	658p (+23p)	
Domino	432p (+23p)	
Takeda Chem	852p (+28p)	
Thomson Corp	805p (+20p)	
Ranger	835p (+25p)	
Mile	356p (+20p)	
FALLS:		
Tibbet & Britten	758p (-7p)	
BICC	835p (-8p)	

Closing Prices Page 29

Dow weathers blow to health shares

New York — Wall Street shares stayed slightly higher in early trading, weathering a dive by health maintenance shares after a downgrading of the sector by Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette.

Phil Orlando, senior vice-president of First Capital Advisers, said: "These stocks are getting hammered on the DJI downgrade. Everything in the group is down." He said that the fall was eased by Goldman Sachs reiterating its aggressive buy rating for the sector. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 5.87 points to 3,578.60.

Hong Kong — Shares closed moderately higher as late demand reversed early losses. The Hang Seng index ended at 7,357.63, up 27.82 points.

Singapore — Share prices

ended marginally higher after fluctuating in slim ranges, with many investors pausing after the market's big leap on Tuesday. The Straits Times industrial index closed 2.26 points higher at 1,901.10 on late gains after the market came under profit-taking for most of the day. The index hit a record high of 1,912.14 on better than expected figures for second-quarter economic growth.

Sydney — A lack of strong leads and caution before the federal budget next Tuesday kept shares lacklustre. A broker with James Capel said: "There was no clear direction to guide the market higher. Gold, which has been the saviour, was off again." The all-ordinaries index crawled 0.6 points higher to close at 1861.0. (Reuters)

Tycoon feels the chill

THE merger of the two largest of Britain's newspaper publishers, the Express Group and the News Group, has created a new super-publisher. The new company, News International, will own 10 of the 11 national newspapers in the UK. The merger is expected to create a more powerful voice in the media, and to challenge the dominance of the BBC. The new company is expected to be a major force in the media landscape of the future.

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ECONOMIC VIEW

What really happened the day the ERM collapsed

Edouard Balladur should draw the right lessons from his country's humiliation, or suffer the consequences, Anatole Kaletsky argues

Four weeks ago, the last time I wrote this column, I offered some unsolicited advice to Edouard Balladur, the prime minister of France. I argued that he should immediately arrange an orderly devaluation of the franc against the mark. If he failed to devalue, the market would do it for him, ending the French dream of "European construction". This was to build a centralised Europe from the monetary roof downwards, making sure that it was run by the only people clever enough to manage such an unusual mode of construction: graduates of the *École Normale d'Administration*.

In at least one respect, my analysis was flawed. I said that M Balladur was "a skilled economist, in contrast to John Major" and would, therefore, devalue voluntarily instead of allowing his policies to be destroyed by events. Like most financiers and analysts, I was deceived: I confused the intellectual gloss of the French *Enarths* for strategic vision and common sense.

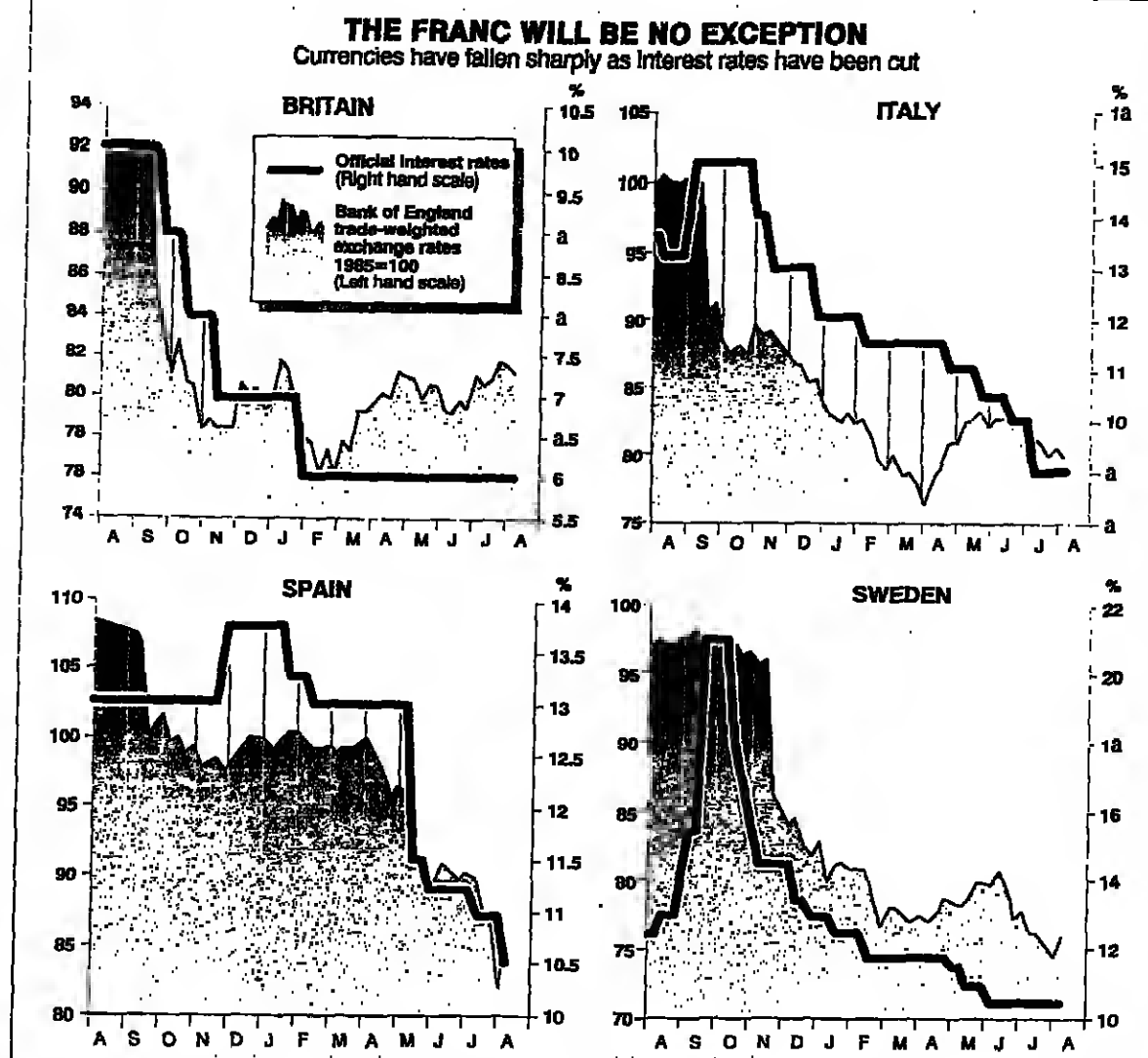
Yet, with every day that passes since the currency debacle, it becomes clearer that the French government did not know what it was doing in the ERM. I have pieced together some telling details about events that week.

The Bank of France seemed to realise the situation was hopeless immediately after the Bundesbank meeting at lunchtime on Thursday July 29, and asked M Balladur for permission to float the franc the next day. The prime minister, however, was adamant, apparently hoping that Helmut Kohl would be willing to activate a little-known clause in the German constitution giving him the right to issue formal instructions to the Bundesbank on interest rates.

Top officials in the French Treasury encouraged M Balladur, believing that Hans Tietmeyer, president-elect of the Bundesbank, would campaign on behalf of France within the Bundesbank, if necessary opposing the retiring president, Helmut Schlesinger. If internal pressure on the Bundesbank failed, French diplomats thought they could push the mark out of the ERM — pinning on Germany the blame for wrecking the system and making the franc the anchor currency of the new ERM.

The meeting of the European monetary committee on the Saturday morning, July 31, showed that French officials were out of touch with reality on all these points. What was planned as a ruthless inquiry of the Bundesbank and the German government turned into a sometimes comical attack on French pretensions. And the German hardliner was not Dr Schlesinger (who mostly watched in amiable silence) but Herr Tietmeyer.

The French miscalculation was apparent from the start, when Herr Tietmeyer greeted everyone with a *bonjour*. When asked why he was not speaking German or English, he replied, "apparently we are all now required to speak French in the EMS". The Germans immediately proposed a widening of the ERM bands, to allow an effective devaluation of the franc and other weak currencies. The French counter-attack with a three-point plan: all ERM governments would issue a joint statement promising unlimited intervention to support existing bands; the Bundesbank would give a public commitment to buy francs for its own account, without having the ultimate exchange risk borne by the Bank of France (as it is under ERM rules); finally, the Bundesbank would announce an immediate cut in its repo rate. Herr Tietmeyer responded tersely: "You forgot a fourth point: Germany must abandon the mark and give up its national sovereignty".



At another point in the meeting, a Portuguese official suggested that instead of widening the ERM bands, the core countries could move immediately to an informal monetary union. A German official replied: "I hope that proposal was intended as a joke." With Saturday's meeting deadlocked, the monetary committee broke up into bilateral talks and France raised its backup plan — German should temporarily leave the ERM. To the surprise of the French, Germany readily agreed to this plan — an attitude which probably meant that Germany no longer considered the ERM a credible system and did not mind being blamed for its collapse. What the French had failed to anticipate was that some other ERM members were only interested in belonging to a German-dominated system. At the full meeting of finance ministers on Sunday, it became clear that The Netherlands would insist on floating its guilder out of the ERM along with the mark. And if The Netherlands floated out, Belgium and Luxembourg would follow suit. Belgium, wracked by internal conflict between the French-speaking Walloons and the Flemish, could not afford to stay in a French-dominated bloc while the Dutch sided with Germany.

With all the alternatives exhausted, the French were forced to accept Germany's original proposal — a widening of the ERM fluctuation margins. Belgium, with reluctant French backing, initially proposed widening the margins to 4 or 6 per cent, and finally to 10 per cent. But by then the Germans and Dutch were in command. Germany insisted that 10 per cent bands would not be wide enough. The Netherlands that it would

stick to its present margins of 2½ per cent. With time running out before the markets opened in Tokyo, the ministers had to reach a decision. Belgium proposed 15 per cent fluctuation margins for all countries except Holland. The Bundesbank agreed, and the meeting ended within minutes. After this series of rebuffs, can M Balladur still want to ruin his country in order to keep the franc within a "shadow" band of 5 or 6 per cent against the mark? That is what most French analysts believe. In truth, it is more likely that French monetary policy in the past ten days has been merely a feat, designed to trick inexperienced financial operators into buying francs from the Bank of France. But as the days tick by, the suspicion grows that M Balladur may sincerely want to "defend" the franc.

If so, the French economy will go from bad to worse. France will suffer the collapse of economic confidence that was seen after White Wednesday in Britain, but will miss out on the benefit of sharply lower interest rates. As in Sweden, Italy and Spain, the monetary caution will not prevent French interest rates eventually falling — and the currency sinking. Whatever happens, the franc now seems bound for £3.70 to the mark. The only question now is whether France benefits or suffers even more, as its currency falls.

TEMPUS

Running of the bull

BULL markets have an astonishingly selective outlook on the world. On Tuesday, the stock market shrugged off a profits warning from BOC, one of its largest and most stable constituents, with hardly a shiver. Yesterday the FT-SE 100 index smashed through 3,000 merely on the strength of a half-point cut in the Bank of France's 24-hour interest rate.

Tempus suggested on Monday that the rally in share prices had further to go, but investors have taken up the challenge even more enthusiastically than expected. The absence of any impending rights issues to soak up institutional cashflow and the brightening economic outlook on the Continent has exacerbated the stock shortage the market has been suffering for several months.

At 3.006.1, the FT-SE 100 index has now largely discounted the next base rate cut.

Since this is unlikely to arrive before the autumn, this week's exuberant gains suggest the market has run a little too far too fast. Share prices will have difficulty rising much beyond this level, particularly if another round of cash calls materialises in the next few months.

Longer term, the market's yield of 3.9 per cent is not outrageously out of line with base rates or gilt yields. If inflation and interest rates remain around current levels for the foreseeable future, as most economists expect, current share prices are justified. Investors who balk at buying shares for more than 20 times next year's earnings have simply never operated in a low-interest rate environment. Share prices will only drop if the inflationary outlook worsens. Then, history suggests, they will drop very sharply indeed.

Commercial Union

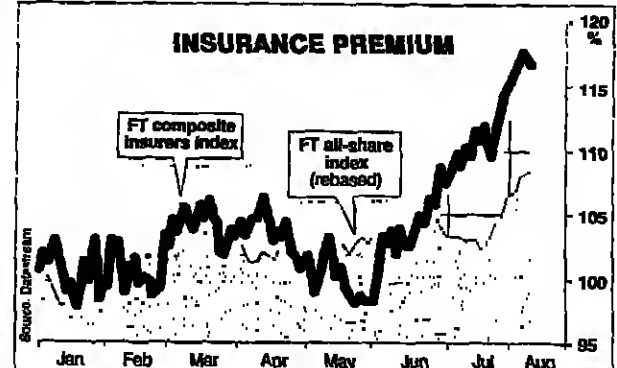
WITH breathtaking cheek, Commercial Union is dipping its hand in shareholders' pockets, with an enhanced scrip dividend that should raise another £100 million in extra retentions, only six months after tapping them for a £428 million call.

Enhanced scrip dividends were pioneered by companies such as BAT Industries and RTZ to escape from structural advance corporation tax liabilities. These companies could never hope to generate sufficient domestic profits to recover ACT payments, but CU can hardly claim it has a structural ACT problem. When profits from its domestic general and life businesses recover fully, they are more than capable of offsetting the group's past

Insurance Premium

and present ACT payments. Yesterday's enhanced scrip looks suspiciously like a top-up to the rights issue.

CU's demand for more cash is understandable, given the 14 per cent underlying rise in its premium income in the first half. If the group plans to expand its business at this speed, the solvency margin would have look



BAA

MARKETS love good news but in BAA's case they seem prepared to reward the share price on traffic statistics that are merely reassuring. In the absence of war or a collapse in sterling, one might expect a boost to airport traffic from holiday travellers but growth is only marginally ahead of BAA's forecast for the year.

BAA's shares trade on an ambitious multiple of almost 19 times expected earnings in the current year, so the market expects something more than this sort of marginal increase in traffic. The bull case for BAA is all about retailing. The company paints a rosy picture of growth with 350,000 sq ft of extra shops to be added in the next five years.

The aggressive expansion in commercial income is designed to make up for the shortfall in revenue from airport charges, currently depressed by the RPI minus 8 per cent formula dictated by the Civil Aviation Authority. Hefty rent increases imposed on airline tenants over the past two years mean that rental growth is likely to slow

down. BAA also needs to plan for the £1 billion construction cost of the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow, although the CAA is likely to relax the RPI formula to facilitate the development.

If BAA is a retailer, it is hard to understand why it enjoys a better rating than Marks and Spencer, which currently yields 3 per cent, 0.3 points more than the airport group. M&S has a longer experience in the retailing trade and is not affected by the fortunes of airlines. Nor is it exposed to regulatory whims.

Japan

THE 239-point rise in the Nikkei index shows that Tokyo's financial markets are pleased with Morihiro Hosokawa, Japan's new prime minister, and his fragile seven-party coalition. At least they are relieved that someone has been able to form a government after months of uncertainty. The chance that he will announce a new package of fiscal stimuli in his policy statement later this month, coupled with renewed hope that the Bank of

Japan will cut the discount rate has helped to give the Nikkei new impetus.

The reward may not come as quickly as investors hope. Electoral reform is at the forefront of Mr Hosokawa's mind, and economic matters may be neglected for a spell, even assuming the coalition survives. The government has less scope for tax cuts than the market might hope, due to dwindling tax revenues. There could be a cut of perhaps ¥2,000 billion (£13 billion) but it might not come until the end of the fiscal year in March.

Prospects for a discount rate cut look more hopeful, but for the wrong reasons. The market could suffer a succession of poor economic data next month. Many of Japan's manufacturers have increased holiday allowance which is likely to depress industrial production, while second-quarter GNP figures are also unlikely to be palatable. The Bank of Japan may well feel obliged to order a half-point cut simply to counteract this bad news, but such a long-awaited cut is unlikely to boost or even hold share prices.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tycoon feels the chill

THE hyenas appear to be closing in on Bernard Tapie, the ex-politician turned football club owner who ranks as one of France's most controversial entrepreneurs. Tapie, who has suffered a run of adverse publicity since the scandal over alleged bribes at his Marseilles football club, is seeing his finances come under pressure like never before. The weak state of the property market has knocked down the value of his hotel in Paris from Fr100 million to an estimated Fr30 million, and the problems at Marseilles have led to a drop in football sponsorship, considerably reducing the value of his Fr130 million investment. The club's debts stand at about Fr110 million, and the Bernard Tapie Group, which turned round a string of ailing companies in the 1980s, has debts of about Fr500 million. The socialist tycoon told a French magazine recently that his Paris mansion and yacht were mortgaged, the value of his shares had slumped, and he had sold antiques and a Rubens.

Lifting the lid

HOWARD Hughes, the aviator, movie mogul, founder of TWA and businessman extraordinaire, was called "the enigma of the century". A new book, *Howard Hughes: The Secret Life*, by Charles Higham (£16.99), to be published by Sidgwick and Jackson next month, claims yet again to lift the lid on the strange life of the multi-mil-

lionaire, exploring the hermit-like existence of his later years along with the blanket of corruption, dishonesty and bad faith that allegedly overshadowed his business dealings. Arguably, his greatest love was his flying boat, the *Spruce Goose*, which flew just once — on November 2, 1947 — before becoming one of the world's more exotic tourist attractions at Long Beach, California. Last year, it was sent to Oregon to form the centrepiece of a new aviation museum.

Freedom's march

THE web that embraces the Square Mile is much bigger and stickier than one might at first imagine. A quick scan down the list of Freeman of the City reveals an astonishing array of occupations. The roll-call includes a taxi driver, hearing therapist, scrap metal merchant, harbourmaster, playwright supervisor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, potter, car park atten-

dant, newsagent, school teacher, salesman, cardiologist, dancer, toastmaster, demographer, butler, computer programmer, behaviour therapist, debt collector, fine art auctioneer and musician. It also includes Alan Bond, the disgraced Australian entrepreneur, who is not thought to have taken up his right to drive a flock of sheep over London Bridge... so far. In the meantime, it has come to light that London's taxi drivers are seeking grant of livery — a refreshing contrast to the usual bigwigs.

Mission possible

NOW this is true grit. P&O Containers, part of the shipping, construction and property group, has stepped in to help a disabled Vietnam war veteran who is motor cycling round the world. David Barr, who has been travelling round Britain, is bound for Australia and needed help to get his Harley Davidson to Brisbane. Happy to oblige, P&O will load it today on to one of its ships at Barking, east London. Barr, 39, flew more than 1,000 combat missions in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief; only to lose both legs in a landmine explosion in Angola. Since visiting the UK in 1991, he has travelled through Europe to the Arctic Circle, on to Chile via America, through South-East Asia, China, Africa, Scandinavia, and back to Britain: raising funds and increasing awareness about the disabled along the way.

Trading places

MORE blues for the Swiss. Kevin Darlington, UK econo-

mist at UBS, is leaving to join neighbouring house Hoare Govett. Darlington, who joined the firm from the Treasury in the late 1980s, handed in his notice yesterday. He follows in the footsteps of Avinash Persaud, the former UBS currency specialist, who has resurfaced at JP Morgan. News of Darlington's departure — the third from UBS in two weeks — is bound to set tongues wagging. Mark Clubb, one of the firm's top UK institutional salesmen, has signed up with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, and Alan Davis is moving to James Capel as a banking sector specialist salesman.

Golden chance

IF AUTHORS generally let out a gentle sigh of relief on publication of their work, it was little wonder that Ross Louthean let out a loud whoopie as his invaluable *Register of Australian Mining, 1993/94*, which details all Australian mining companies and more than 3,000 deposits, was issued in London. Louthean had carted numerous copies of the register from his native Australia to London for a presentation to the investment community, and since each register weighs 1,267 grammes that was some baggage. Interested investors may balk at the price, but now that the gold price is rising, and Australian mining shares are back in fashion, the cover price at £145 could well be worth its weight in information — and is still only just over half the price of one ounce of real gold.

JON ASHWORTH

Confusion over type of employment

From Mr T. D. A. Steven
Sir, I am a small businessman whose business failed in April 1992, and who has a crisis of identity.

My company was a properly incorporated limited company and was, unfortunately, a victim of the recession.

It seems that because I was the "boss" and not answerable to anyone that the Department of Employment has classified me as "self-employed" and, therefore, not eligible for redundancy pay.

Being simple-minded, I then asked the Department of Social Security for my class 1 National Insurance contributions back, since I was not eligible for that particular benefit. I was particularly interested in the "Employers

NIC". The Department of Social Security contributions agency advised me that, as far as they were concerned, I was an "employee" of the company and, therefore, required to pay Class 1 for myself and the employers contribution for the company.

So now I find that for the purpose of the DSS I am an employee but to the Department of Employment I am self-employed.

Have any of your readers had this experience — if so I would like to hear from them and especially if they were able to resolve it.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. A. STEVEN,
4 Eastfield Close,
Andover,
Hampshire.

Weathering recession

From Mr Brian Warnes
Sir, The Bank of England's, perhaps surprising, comment that companies are in better shape to weather coming out of this recession than the last, has a curious echo in Donald Kirkham's comments on *The Woolwich's* first-half results of £88 million pre-tax (August 10), compared with £36 mil-

Cheers to success

From Mr Ken Broad
Sir, If as you report the company making Welsh whisky can make a profit approaching £300,000 on a turnover of £650,000 (Your Own Business, August 10) I must be in the wrong business? Anyone interested in Shropshire Sherry or a Newport Nogg? Yours sincerely,
KEN BROAD,
Ultrasport, 4 St Mary's Street,
Newport, Shropshire.

Building society members need voice

From Dr K. W. E. Craven
Sir, The highly controversial proposal to merge The Leeds Permanent with the National & Provincial Building Society demonstrates the need for independent directors and greater democracy within our building societies.

Would a tame compliant board ever be likely to oppose such grandiose and damaging plans?

Truly independent directors could better reflect the views of the millions of members who comprise the societies, who are all too well aware of what job losses and branch closures mean both to them and to the loyal staff.

But any ordinary member standing for election as director faces a host of obstacles, many of which seem grossly unfair.

For instance, many building societies, including The Leeds Permanent and the National & Provincial require a person seeking election to have not less than 50 members to back the nomination.

Furthermore, The Leeds board may require candidates to supply them with written proof of their "financial and managerial experience, creditworthiness, competence and character".

Can anyone envisage such conditions being imposed by the party in power on opponents at parliamentary or local elections?

It should be the proud boast of wary building societies that it welcomes greater participation by its members in its affairs and elections, yet since I decided to stand in the forthcoming election of directors of The Leeds, I have encountered nothing but difficulties, of which the foregoing is but a small part.

It is a sad fact that in most building society elections, less than one in 20 members bothers to vote.

I therefore urge all members of both, or indeed all other building societies to use their votes to help protect the independence and standards of service they appreciate in the societies they mutually own.

Only by voting can members preserve, or resurrect, the spirit of mutuality that once characterised the building society movement.

In rejecting the merger, members will show that they do have a voice, a voice that the present directors have not yet heard.

Yours faithfully,
K. W. E. CRAVEN,
Melander Close,
York.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112.

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
425	340	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

Prices squeezed to new highs

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 2. Dealings end tomorrow. Settlement day August 23. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

ROOFS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

ELECTRICI

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8
120	100	Abey	115	8	11.5	15.8

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Please write enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae outlining your relevance to the position together with salary details and quoting reference JC469 to Jeff Cottrell, Ernst & Young Corporate Resources, Rolls House, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3TH.

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Market Research Executive

You will be responsible for managing and implementing APACS' programme of market research and market intelligence. Your background will be that of a non-graduate graduate with substantial experience of managing market research assignments, preferably within a financial services environment. Essential requirements include the ability to assimilate complex issues quickly, a pro-active approach, and a strong project management competence. First rate communication and presentation skills are essential to enable you to work effectively with colleagues and external organisations at all levels.

For further details please write with a full CV to Mrs S D Busfield, Personnel Manager, APACS (Administration) Ltd, Mercury House, Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1BR.

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The right season to go hunting for bargains

Patrick James on where to go and what to look for in a shooting or fishing holiday

Not so long ago, the only way to catch a salmon or shoot a pheasant was by invitation only. People who did not own a stretch of the Tweed, an unsporting dale or a few thousand acres of moorland were at the mercy of the postman.

Today, however, opportunities for the landless sportsman have never been better. Many agricultural estates have diversified and now rely on short and long-term sporting lets for income.

For a while, the market flourished, as shooting and fishing were seen as ideal ways for those making thousands in the City to enjoy their cash. But, the recession has bitten back with salmon-like ferocity. Last season, for example, a number of shoots were left with a surplus of

pheasants in January, while many weeks' fishing went unbooked on some of the most famous rivers in the country.

This year, unseasonal weather and a grouse disease, strongylosis, have caused havoc with many grouse flocks. Bookings are down.

When looking for new ground to pursue your favourite quarry, it can be difficult to know where to start. If you want to shoot, and the back pages of *The Field* or *Shooting Times* have produced nothing of interest, then the best bet is to ring the Game Conservancy at Fordingbridge, Hampshire (0425 652381). It has an excellent advisory service to set you off down a reliable trail. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (0244 570881; annual membership £20) is another reliable source of information, with seven regional offices around Britain willing to give advice.

Another possible starting point is to contact a sporting agent. Among the top companies is Strutt and Parker (071-629 7282), but many of the better sporting estates are booked ahead for ten or 15 years. This does not mean, however, that excellent short-term offers cannot be found. In Scotland there are opportunities galore. Colin Carter-Campbell of Brodies in Edinburgh (031-228 4111) is the factor (agent) for a number of estates.

Tulchan estate, 12,000 acres of



Three men and their dogs: there have never been so many reasonably-priced chances for good shooting on the moors

unspoilt and punishing Perthshire. is one example, with prices about average. Driven grouse come at £70 per brace for a 50-brace day, walked-up grouse at £54 per brace. To shoot driven pheasants costs £17 per bird on a 200-bird day and

stags £270 each. Accommodation can be had in the luxurious lodge, which sleeps nine at £3,350 per week (exclusive of VAT and the 7.5 per cent agent's fee).

For fishing, Finlayson Hughes (0738 309261, based in Perth, is a

good place to start. For the past two years the company has published its own catalogue, offering almost anything from big-game fishing in the Bahamas to pheasant shooting in eastern Europe. But the company is happiest organising fishing

in Scotland. The Glenclieve estate, which covers 25,000 acres of the Highlands, has fishing on the River Carron for four rods, a stretch which includes some of the best beats on the river.

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beginning of May and continue until the end of September. The lodge sleeps 14 and each bedroom has its own bathroom.

To take the fishing and the lodge for a week during the season costs £4,300, plus VAT, plus 7.5 per cent agent's fee; if you want to stalk as well, that will cost you another £1,700.

Before you settle on a price with any agent or private estate, it is essential to set out exactly what is included in the price. Is there transport to and from a station or airport? Do you have to pay extra for the ghillies or keepers? Is there a limit on the number of salmon that may be caught? What happens if you shoot more than you agreed to pay for? Are there any rods or rifles available for use? But most important, always insist on seeing the records for past seasons: you may be paying thousands to fish a stretch of river where no salmon have been seen for a decade.

A popular alternative is to book into one of the growing number of country house hotels that offer the chance to shoot or fish. For something out of the ordinary it may be worth trying the Tynymore Hotel, Gwynedd (0654 782282), which lies within the bounds of the Snowdonia National Park, offering trout fishing for most of the year.

The opportunities to find sport that meets your requirements at reasonable prices have never been better. Bargain hunters should remember that at the moment, it is a buyer's market.



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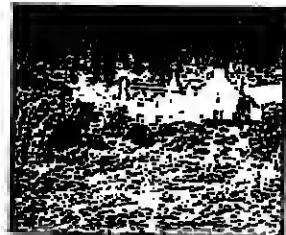
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THEATRE page 34
Robin Soans, a
Pinchwife of entrenched
misogyny in the RSC's
The Country Wife

ARTS

INTERVIEW page 35
Why is Fiona Shaw
staging Hamlet at a
munitions factory in
rural Ireland?



CINEMA: A controversial-sounding comedy, *Made in America* fatally hedges its bets and loses its way

Black, white and all over the place

Here she comes: earrings and dreadlocks dangling, dark glasses on the end of her nose, weaving dangerously through the Berkeley streets on a gaily painted bike. Whoopi Goldberg is always easy to spot. But what kind of film is she in? The signs are confusing. *Made in America* is made by an industry desperately hedging its bets. At first the film plays like a crazy, crude farce. Then it flirts with issues of race, family values and cultural diversity, suffers a painful attack of high drama ("The next 48 hours are critical," the doc says ominously as Whoopi lies unconscious, right leg in plaster), and finishes up with everybody clapping their hands, singing and dancing. The credits insist a human being wrote the script, but I suspect somebody just poured set ingredients into a blender.

A sperm bank starts off the silliness. Nia Long, bright and lovely student daughter of widow Whoopi (owner of an African-American bookshop), discovers by chance that she was conceived by artificial insemination. Her father, alas, is a chump, a breezy car-dealer with a live-in himbo, noted for his lowbrow television adverts featuring monkeys and bear. He is also a white chump.

Enter Ted Danson in a cowboy hat, whose off-screen friendship with his co-star has filled the tabloids for months. On screen, few sparks fly between them; understandable enough when the script makes Danson ride a runaway elephant chasing the sound of Whoopi's bicycle bell. This kind of slapstick keeps your hands full.

In the ten years since he began directing with *My Favourite Year*, Richard Benjamin seems to have forgotten much of what he once knew about comic finesse and pacing. He can still get his performers to shine, but the gear changes between moods are horrid, and only a few scattered scenes display any satirical spice. Politically correct viewers may appreciate the positive image given to blacks and the education process. But does the surrounding humour have to be so timid or dullish?

Now for something *Made in France*. *Après L'Amour* carries many of the elite trademarks: knotted love lives, well-heeled professionals, fancy apartments with Paris views, much food, wine and cigarettes. As usual Diane Kurys, the director, keeps her eyes and ears close to her characters, especially the women: though you



Ted Danson and Whoopi Goldberg in *Made in America*: their off-screen friendship has filled the tabloids for months but, on screen, few sparks fly between them

cannot help wishing that movie love affairs, like serious illnesses, sometimes affected poor people too.

At the centre is Lola, cool, observant, a novelist always consulting her thoughts to a diary. Isabelle Huppert plays her with extraordinary, riveting restraint, not a gesture or inflection wasted. On her left is Bernard Giraudeau's David, her long-time companion, a smug architect with a neurotic wife and two children elsewhere. On her right is Hippolyte Girardot as her new lover Tom, a pop musician with his own family tucked away.

None of these are overtly likable characters: the architect, staring out at domestic chaos with the eyes of a fish, is particularly forbidding. But Kurys and her excellent cast

portray their curt meetings and fervent embraces, their deceptions and cryptic phone calls, with such precision that you keep watching.

While Diane Kurys continues to be inspired by the mess of human relationships, Italian director Gabriele Salvatores seems a man in need of a new theme. In *Mediterraneo*, his 1992 Oscar winner, soldiers ran away from the responsibilities of the second world war on a Greek island. *Puerto Escondido* features a hounded bank clerk, a murderous policeman and a watch designer who run away to Mexico, where motley adventures with crime, drugs and a fighting cock beckon them. You could sum it all up in one word: piffing.

Maybe if Salvatores did not

dawdle so much, the film might have more of the airy charm that kept *Mediterraneo* aloft. Certainly there are good moments. Diego Abatantuono, the director's regular star, leads a merry band (including Valeria Golino), while the camera makes the most of rocks and cacti.

But aggravation sets in, and the presentation of Mexico as a rehabilitation ward for tired capitalists tips over into the condescending.

"Are you saying we should cross the Kalahari? That's impossible!" a teenage girl with a strong chin and flaxen hair pipes up. But with the aid of Bushman know-how, a cocky young New Yorker attached to a walkman, and a dog's companionship, *A Far Off Place* shows how the impossible can be done.

Since the producers are Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment and Walt Disney, readers of Laurens van der Post's original novel should not expect fidelity. Material is injected from a companion book. Details have been updated and the hero has changed sex. Yet the result holds up on its own old-fashioned terms as a family film in praise of teenage courage, nature conservation and pretty photography.

Director Mikael Salomon, a gifted cameraman himself, allows ample room for the desert landscape, and whips up a powerful sandstorm. Reese Witherspoon and Ethan Randall, orphans fleeing to safety, make a stronger pair than first impressions suggest. And there are no dinosaurs.

Finally, two revivals. George Sluizer's icy, wicked tease of a Dutch thriller, *The Vanishing*, originally appeared here in 1990. Its second release is due to Hollywood, aided by Sluizer himself, hammering flat the same material in a recent remake.

Hollywood's edition of this ingenious tale about kidnapping and psychological torment features star faces, glossy scenery and a laborious, crowd-pleasing climax. Sluizer's splendid original boasts nondescript settings, an anonymous cast (though Johanna ter Steege is now far better known) and a quick, lethal wrap-up. Since Sluizer's theme is evil's banality and its easy entry into mundane lives, his chosen dull, French

highways provide the ideal setting.

And no recent movie psychopath has unnerved as insidiously as Bernard-Pierre Donnadieu's Raymond, a pudding-faced plodder with a right smile and little beard. Jeff Bridges' equivalent shows all the subtlety of a pantomime dame.

The other revival is Richard Brooks' *In Cold Blood* of 1967, from a touring season of black-and-white CinemaScope prints presented by the British Film Institute and Piper-Heidsieck champagne. It has not aged well. What seemed an exciting, quasi-documentary approach to Truman Capote's record of a senseless murder and its aftermath now appears too full of its own significance.

The acting is variable. "I thought Mr Clutter was a nice gentleman. I thought so right up to the time I cut his throat," from Robert Blake (one of the killers), still makes the heart jump, but Brooks cannot let the cold facts rest. He must twist our arm with forceful editing, Freudian flashbacks and weighty thoughts from hardened reporter Paul Stewart.

What survives is Conrad Hall's photography. When a film begins with a shoe thrust into the foreground, each ridge of its sole clearly visible, you may cringe at the artifice. But you know a magician is behind the camera; and once he turns to the little Kansas towns, the crime and the punishment, his magic rarely slips.

Honest to gods of all kinds

David Robinson welcomes Channel 4's new season of films on the theme of religious belief

Television schedulers are like egg-pickers, industriously processing what start out as individual, one-off films — sizing them, grading them and packaging them neatly in half dozens, as strands or series under catch-all generic titles. This way the consumer knows what he is getting; the comfortable predictability of the weekly programming is not unsettled by an unfamiliar title or an unwelcome timing.

Thus Channel 4 has collected a dozen quite heterogeneous documentaries into a series called "Witness", on the pretext that their common subject is particular personal beliefs that do not conform to the great organised religions. In *Consider the End* (September 2), Ludovic Kennedy sets out the case for voluntary euthanasia. In *Holy Madness* (September 9) Mira Hamermesh diagnoses The Jerusalem Syndrome: the tendency of salem tourists, caught up in the Holy City's maelstrom of incompatible religions, to suppose that they are the reincarnation of Jesus or David or even Samson.

John Dollar's *The Emperor's Birthday* (August 20) is set in Addis Ababa during celebrations of the centenary of Haile Selassie's birth. People who remember that melancholy little monarch as a refugee, sitting out the second world war in Bath, may find it hard to conceive his elevation to divinity by the Rastafarians of the world.

A particular motif in the film is the box of exhumed bones which the might or might not be those of the Lion of Judah, who might or might not have been executed by the not have been executed by the revolutionaries in 1972. Rastas, convinced that he is still living, do not really care, of course.



Religious cults: Don Boyd's *Man, God and Africa*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight at 9pm

The first film of the series, *Man, God and Africa*, showing tonight, is directed by Don Boyd, best known as the producer of such films as *Scrubbers*, *Scum* and Derek Jarman's *The Tempest*. An exploration of religious communities among the poorest black populations of South Africa, the film is a remarkable demonstration of the tendency of every faith to appropriate the habits and ceremonies of precedent and even quite inimical religions.

Among these African sects — some of which consist only of a few score believers — the music, dance, possession and healings, of atavistic tribal ceremony are unselfconsciously adapted to Christian worship. The outstanding quality of the film is Boyd's unqualified respect for simple belief and sincerity, without a hint of paternalistic patronage. Boyd will contribute another film, on the vicars of Britain, to the second half-dozen series of "Witness".

The series has its ups and downs. Next week's *L.A. Divine* (August 19), for instance, is a tabloid trot through some of the odd cults of Los Angeles. The guide is Christopher Hitchens, whose on-screen title is "Culture Critic of *Vanity Fair*". An aesthete in shades, he casts off epigrams that do not bear

a second thought, styles a divine as being "too Hollywood what St Peter was to down-town Rome", and calls leaves "adorable".

The final film of the first series, Frank Perry's *On The Bridge* (September 16), is, however, unmissable. I must admit that for half a year, as it turned up at one festival after another, I consciously avoided seeing this film — a filmmaker's record of his own battle with inoperable cancer. Paradoxically, *On the Bridge* turns out to be an incomparably optimistic and encouraging film. The message is emphatically about living and not dying.

Frank Perry is a distinguished director, whose works include *David and Lisa*, *The Swimmer* and *Mommie Dearest*. Discovering that the time remaining was finite, he set out to use it well and make it count; and in the process he found a lot of people with the same "problem" (it is never styled more seriously than that) and the same determination.

The Great Unmentionable becomes an everyday affair as interesting and irritating as a car service that is giving trouble — and as secondary to the real things of life. The overwhelming importance and pleasure of the film is that his "problem" has focused Perry's attention on the things that matter:

and this is the message he passes along. It is a thrilling story of conquest: Perry's determination has already carried him past a whole series of medical deadlines. As the end title declares: "He is doing his best to use what he learned while making this movie — to live from the heart and sing his own song."

OPERA NORTH's new boss, Ian Ritchie, has moved quickly to remove a potential embarrassment from his first season. The company is postponing Howard Davies's staging of *Eugene Onegin*, a co-production that was comprehensively reviled when Welsh National Opera unveiled it in Cardiff. Opera North was to have presented it in Leeds in November as its Tchaikovsky centenary tribute; instead the company will mount a new production of a rare Mozart opera, *Il Re Pastore*, directed by David McVicar and conducted by Paul Daniel.

The company cites "unexpected artistic difficulties" as the reason for postponing *Onegin* until autumn 1995. "The director hasn't been too well," elaborates an Opera North spokesman. Given the kind of reviews his production achieved ("a complete and irretrievable mess" wrote Rodney Milnes in *The Times*), one is not surprised.

Import-export

AMERICAN plays and musicals are mounting an autumn assault on the West End. *Marvin's Room*, the acclaimed drama by the late Scott McPherson, is the latest to move in — to the Comedy Theatre, reopening on September 22 following its sell-out run at Hampstead. In the same month, David

Onegin not to be on again

Mamet's "sexual harassment" play *Oleanna* opens at the Duke of York. And three American musicals also come to London in September: *Hair*, *Carousel* and the off-Broadway hit *Forever Plaid*.

However, it is not all Americana: two of the most talked about British

Meanwhile, the National Theatre's *An Inspector Calls* transfers to the Aldwych Theatre on August 21. Kenneth Cranham continues as the sinister Inspector Goole, but Julian Glover and Sylvester Le Touzel join the cast in Stephen Daldry's brilliantly revisionist production of the durable J.B. Priestley classic.

● THE last word in incestuous television will surely be spoken on BBC2 later this month, when the network unveils a television series about "the making of a television celebrity". The celebrity is Sir David Frost, whose rise from Sixties sadist to Nineties media mogul is traced in a three-part series called *Frost in the Air* (August 30, 31 and September 4).

Last chance...

GENERAL opinion has it that the Royal Academy's much-attended and also much-derided Summer Exhibition is, in its 225th edition, finally getting its act together. Partly it may be the hefty participations this year of such absentee RAs as David Hockney that have improved things, partly the closer integration of abstract and representational, sculpture and painting. Whatever it is, the Academy show (071-439 7438) runs in Piccadilly until Sunday.

ARTS BRIEFING

productions of the last season are to be relocated in the West End. From next Wednesday, Sir Peter Hall's bawdy production of *Lysistrata* transfers from the Old Vic to Wyndham's Theatre, where it will be presented by the theatre impresario Bill Kenwright. Geraldine James continues in the title role, and the giant phalluses so prominently paraded will doubtless continue to tickle some fancies and horrify others.

PATRICK BERGIN
ANNE PARILLAUD
JASON SCOTT LEE

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Fiona Shaw's 'Hamlet Project' aims to change the way the Irish see Shakespeare. Gill Pyrah reports



DANCE
As the spirit moves
Praying Mantis
Dreaming
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Do you dilute or revitalise old traditions when you mix them with new forms? Arguably, a tradition that cannot adapt to circumstances is a dead tradition, and the Australian choreographer Stephen Page (father from the Mullingar tribe, mother part Aboriginal, part Maori, with a dash of English and Spanish) points out that in the northern communities now he finds "traditional" dances newly invented by young people.

"When they first saw a flag," he says, "they started doing a flag dance; and when they learned how to play cards they did a card dance."

So he defends the creation of an urban black style which draws from Aboriginal, Islander and white modern dance influences; and in the ambitious work which Bangarra Dance Theatre gave in the QEH last Saturday he uses it appropriately to tell the story of a girl taken from her mother's Aboriginal tribe by her European father, left alone in the city when he dies young (of drink?), but eventually reclaimed to her people thanks to her mother's Praying Mantis totem who has constantly guarded her, appearing in her dreams.

Patience is needed before the narrative of *Praying Mantis Dreaming* becomes clear, at least for a British audience unfamiliar with the context; and the depiction of seedy city life can look a touch naive in its stylisation. But the sincerity and skills of the work and its performers carry the day.

Three brothers take much of the credit. Stephen Page is director and choreographer of Bangarra Dance Theatre. David Page has composed and arranged the music. Both of these dance too, but in that respect they are outshine by Russell Page, whose role as the Praying Mantis Spirit is almost incredibly demanding. I cannot imagine how he manages to keep his powerful acrobatic tricks going at full strength, while hardly ever off stage for more than a few minutes, and to blend them with such a smooth fluent manner.

But this is not just a one family show. Sue-Ann Williams makes the daughter equally convincing as the good girl she basically proves to be and the good-time girl in her big-city abandon. And the group as a whole dances well, especially the men, whose strength is revealed equally in heavy movement or in an uncanny lightness from even the burliest of them.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Past and furious Irish *Hamlet*. "I knew it would be violent," says the project's director, Fiona Shaw, "and I knew this would be the way for this country to explode its polite relationship with Shakespeare"

The play's the thing, in Elsinore or in Galway

An unlit munitions warehouse is an inhospitable place. No wonder the scuttling figure who emerged like a rat from the blackness scratched and scabbled at the filthy cold walls. The guards whisper hoarse alarm at every sound, and all those present catch the terror which is seeping outwards from a now candlelit corner into the gloomy beyond. Though we are in Galway, on Ireland's west coast, tonight this is Elsinore. And surely everything is rotten in this state of Denmark.

Last year the country's premier actress, Fiona Shaw, led acting workshops for the largely inexperienced youngsters at Dublin's Abbey Theatre. She also knew that John Lynch, who starred with her in the Royal Shakespeare Company's mesmerising production of *Electra*, wanted to play *Hamlet*. This fast, violent and battering version of the play is the outcome.

It is two hours shorter than usual: alas, poor Yorick, he's out; and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are, if not dead, missing in action. Purists who like their Shakespeare delivered clearly, as recognisable poetry, would hate the cuts and the sentences half lost in entrances and exits. Personally, I am all for *Hamlet* speaking the opening of his soliloquy to himself, quietly, behind the audience. Most of us can fill in the first couple of lines.

The morning after a draining first night, Shaw came to be interviewed in the desolate warehouse. Ideally, the director said, there would be no more than 15 in the audience. So that, as the actors had made half the building their own (actually living and sleeping in it), even when they were ostensibly "off stage", and in another part of the castle, they would be alongside or behind the spectators; and sometimes eavesdropping, with us, on events.

To pay the bill, however, she had agreed to 150 voyeurs, sitting no more than three deep. On the first night 300 turned up — an overwhelming number. Shaw seemed genuinely, if naively, surprised by the crowd. Spending only £140 of the £1,000 production budget, she had stripped away stage, sets, costumes, Shakespearean actors and much of the text, and had evidently supposed the audience would be pared down too. If she wasn't putting on a production with an audience in mind, what was she up to?

"I'm here to encourage actors. In Ireland we have a massively successful writers' theatre, where actors are merely the tools of the writer. I'm trying to be, not the director, the provoker. I suppose, I'm in love with Shakespeare and have had a fantastic time bathing in the sea of his plays. There's no better writer for exploring the nature of theatre with. And while *Hamlet* is a sort of sacred cow in England, here it is not so; it's rarely done.

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Team players: Fiona Shaw with members of the "Hamlet Project"

"I knew it would be violent — John is a very violent, vibrant actor — and I knew this would be the way for this country to explode its polite relationship with Shakespeare, which is often treated with some application of an emulsion that somehow protects you from the horrible directness of Shakespeare."

The project has depended on two texts: the play and Peter Brook's tract on the nature and purpose of

theatre, *The Empty Space*. For weeks the actors have been hauled through the sort of exercises that are not uncommon in Britain, but rare in Ireland. While some were blindfolded, for example, the rest had to "describe" either by touch or sound, a series of Francis Bacon paintings (the blindfolds passed into the production): one evening they spent three hours as a tribe hunting boar to a drum, and "going bananas" (the

fight sequence was the result). Another time, Polonius, Gertrude and Claudius spent the night sitting round candles and were allowed only three sentences to convey their lifetime plans and ambitions. "Why," Shaw asked her designer Frank Conway, "was that so riveting?" "Because you're allowed in to watch people think." Thus it is in the production.

To her own fascination, Shaw has had to spend hours working with her Irish cast on the notion of "king". They have come up with something like a medieval baronetcy. She asked them to "delve into themselves" for experiences of power, abuse, servility and despair. One revealed he was sexually assaulted by a master at his Catholic boarding-school; he was terrified to the point of wetting his bedclothes. Without speaking, his attacker had bathed him for 15 minutes then carefully laundered his things. Another spoke of a man who walked out in public, swathed in a rope, and was left alone to commit suicide.

Now the kingdom of Elsinore is peopled by isolated, fearful souls. Polonius swiftly and silently buggers Ostric, oshes his son for leaving home and pimps his own

daughter, getting her up like a pitiful underage girl at King's Cross. Even in death she is strapped to her bier as though in bondage.

Catholic rites and symbols intrude everywhere. Polonius is battered to death with a crucifix; and surely never in this century has Laertes' lament for his family, buried without full ritual, meant so much.

"Provoking" the actors to find their own way in the hell-bent production gives us an agonising Claudius (Sean McGinley, a natural king of the tinkers, from Donegal), who, unusually, takes half-share of the dramatic limelight from his stepson. Meanwhile John Lynch's *Hamlet* answers the central dilemma of the play — why doesn't he do something? — by pacing it backwards: raving at an unsustainable pitch in his early madness (streaked in excrement) and slowly regaining some control to the point at which, too late, he could have extracted revenge.

At least one critic had problems with *Hamlet* dressing in a frock as he prepares for the play within a play. But why? To be a woman in *Hamlet*'s world is to have neither power nor autonomy. By putting aside his maleness he can allow himself to be temporarily passive, not murderous, and at the same time put his relationships with both Gertrude and Ophelia in abeyance.

The "Hamlet Project" is touring 15 venues, each as unlikely as the last and all with something new to offer. So who is to say the frock won't have gone by the time the players reach Skibbereen or Charleville, and the once-mooted live horse be back in the cast?

MUSIC IN NEW YORK

Masur plays to his strengths

Most major American orchestras have summer residencies in the countryside, such as the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood. The New York Philharmonic has never had one — until now. For the second year in a row the orchestra has migrated eight blocks south to its old home at Carnegie Hall for a festive three-week series of concert.

Last year's all-conductor festival saw a triumphant beginning to Kurt Masur's directorship: this year's Schumann and Brahms programmes were electrifying.

The orchestra played with white-hot intensity and nearly impeccable virtuosity, sounding better than it has for years. A successful European tour apparently tightened the ensemble, and Masur's rapport with the musicians seems at once warm and masterful.

The Carnegie audiences, normally more staid than those at the Philharmonic's Lincoln Center home, have responded ecstatically, as have the critics. Even the New York Times reviewers, who generally pride themselves on never liking anything much, have become unabashed. James Cheever wrote of the final concert: "Every phrase had life and direction, and the

players showed involvement and even unabashed joy in their collective mien as well as in their performances."

The piano concertos on the first two programmes — Schumann's and Brahms's Second — were exceptionally well-served by Richard Goode and Garrick Ohlsson respectively. Goode's performance was especially affecting, passionate yet coolly well-shaped. Ohlsson's Brahms had some eccentric tempos — the first movement's allegro non troppo was perilously near to an andante — but Masur accompanied sensitively, and the effect was ultimately satisfying. Less so was Shlomo Mintz's pensive rendering of the Brahms Violin Concerto in the final programme.

However, on every programme it was the symphonic selection that made the most exciting impression. Brahms's First is one of Masur's best interpretations, supple and serene yet saturated with inner strength. His readings of Schumann's First and Fourth symphonies were a revelation. He made no attempt to lighten the composer's famously heavy hand, but the effect, far from being leaden, was one of sweeping power.

JAMIE JAMES

A wholly healthy chamber opera?

Gerald Lerner eavesdrops as composer James MacMillan and playwright Iain Heggie discuss their new collaboration for the Edinburgh Festival

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

"One of the briefs from the Traverse," continues Heggie, "was that it was for four singers and a band rather than an orchestra. I simplified it even further. I decided we would do it for two: a man and woman observing a group of tourists. I took some advice from Jimmy and Francisco Negrin, who's directing the show, and I also did not take some advice from them. They said I should not do a libretto which had Character A's line followed by Character B's line, and so on. I did lots of that."

"I had certainly never had to deal with that kind of thing before," comments Heggie, "setting words which were basically short sentences in quick-fire exchanges. It seemed almost impossible." Heggie continues: "They said it meant the voice couldn't soar. But I took that on as well because eventually I wrote longer, verse things which had the potential to be arias."

"Once we got round to the arias and so on," says MacMillan, "it was much easier. One of the big challenges for you, Iain, was probably how to write duets, how to interlock lines so that they're not just



Working in harmony: composer James MacMillan (left) and dramatist Iain Heggie



going backwards and forwards, question and answer, but also to get them to sing at the same time."

Heggie agrees: "And there are other things I took on board. One was that I could rhyme for the first time. Another was that I wanted to write lyrics like Thirties or Forties American lyrics, where you can really hear the lines and enjoy the wit of them."

MacMillan — who saw *A Wholly Healthy Glasgow* and *American Bagpipes* in Manchester a few years ago, when he was teaching at the univer-

sity and Heggie was writer in residence at the Royal Exchange Theatre — admires the plays for what he describes as a "musical quality in the structuring of the material". He was delighted to find the same quality in the new libretto for *Tourist Variations*. "I could see at a glance the structural scaffolding which would suit it in terms of key direction and dramatic shading and contrast."

But how does MacMillan cope with the Heggie comedy? Heggie has one answer. "Jimmy doesn't know this, but I've

watched him in the audience and he has a wonderful temperament to deliver comedy to, because he takes a brilliant innocence to the theatre and just laughs his head off. He's easy to please."

Easily pleased, perhaps, but was he easily converted from the music-theatre he has done already in *Busqueda* and *Visitatio Sepulchri* — both of which are effective but deeply serious — to the Glasgow vernacular and what Heggie describes as the "delight in disputation" of his two essentially Scottish characters? "I

ended up with a libretto double the size of *A Wholly Healthy* to be delivered in half the time!" is his answer.

"The vocal delivery has to be quick, syllabic and direct, while the style of the piece draws on the vernacular — there's operetta, the musical, jazz, a couple of rock-style riffs."

It seems that the MacMillan fans will scarcely recognise him. "I am sure they will be surprised, and the musical world at large will be surprised of the four of my premieres at Edinburgh this year, the two big ones are *Tourist Variations* and *Epistles* and anyone hearing them both would think they are by two different people." *Epistles*, a trumpet concerto for John Wallace, follows MacMillan's recent trend towards increased complexity. "It is complex but," he insists, "without losing the necessity to communicate, to be comprehended to a degree by people who may just walk in off the street. It's the same with *Visitatio Sepulchri*. The music in that is quite dense but it's my most accessible piece."

This is a cue for another Heggie interjection. But he has gone already, getting things ready for his mini-festival on the Fringe — *Love and Politics in the Park* at the Stepping Stones and *The Sex Comedies* at the Gilded Balloon.

● *Tourist Variations* is in a double bill with another new opera, *Craig Armstrong and Ian Brown's Anna*, at the Traverse Theatre. Edinburgh festival box office 031-225 5758, previewing this Saturday and opening on Tuesday

A girl's place is in the gang

Claire Messud is struck by the variety and productivity of a talented novelist

Maddy Wirtz, the narrator of Joyce Carol Oates's latest novel, asks: "Does it matter that our old selves are lost to us as surely as the past is lost, or is it enough to know yes we lived then, and we're living now, and the connection must be there? Like a river hundreds of miles long exists both at its source and at its mouth simultaneously?" The now middle-aged Maddy, as she compiles her adolescent memoir (the confessions of a girl gang), asks many such unanswerable, familiar questions, and through them Oates captures the adolescent musings that we all carry with us unresolved through adulthood.

But this particular question is peculiarly apposite to the *oeuvre* of Oates herself. Now in her mid-fifties, Oates has been producing approximately a book a year for 25 years. She is the author of so many novels, short stories, poems and essays, so eclectic in her interests and so versatile in her styles and forms that it is sometimes difficult to ascertain what links her works, aside from her name on the jacket and the owl's visage inside the back cover. Here is an experimental temperament, pursuing as many diverse paths and projects as capture her fancy.

There is no clear link between *Black Water*, say — her last offering, which appeared less than a year ago: a fictionalisation of the Ted Kennedy disaster at Chappa-

quidick, told from the point of view of the drowned girl — and this tale of feminist revenge wrought by working-class girls in upstate New York in the mid-1950s. Oates clearly sets upon an idea, works on it, publishes the result, and moves on to the next, with an almost 19th-century indifference to her prolificacy. The result is that some of her endeavours are lasting gems (she has written several of the finest short stories in contemporary America), while others have a more local interest and fade more quickly from the general imagination.

Although not without merit, *Black Water*, perhaps, of this latter camp. Oates's concept of a group of girls — all from broken or unhappy homes, all combating terrible social odds — banding together around the Robin Hood figure of "Legs" Sadowsky, is an attractive one. Together, the girls find strength, identity, self-respect; they take revenge on their oppressors (men, generally), and give succour to the oppressed: they are sexually independent; they have each other. Ultimately, they even create a woman's place — a gang house, in the country — enacting an ideal reminiscent of women-only communities imagined by writers

across the centuries, from Christine de Pisan onwards. But it is when the gang is united under one roof that the women's self-sufficiency begins to unravel, and what has been a lark turns ugly. What intercedes, above all, is the inevitable, tragic truth that the girls must grow up, must grow into women. Their beloved commander "Legs" is revealed as Peter Pan rather than Robin Hood, a leader who cannot follow them into the real world. She therefore takes the only decent course open to a mythic



From Chappaquidick scandal to teenage angst: Joyce Carol Oates's experimental temperament never settles for long on one subject

icon, feminist or otherwise: she disappears.

Madeline Wirtz is, we are told, 50 at the time of the story's telling, looking back at great remove upon the friends and dreams of her youth. It is here that Oates's novel fails to convince. Maddy's narrative is the breathless, naive and occasionally irritating nattering of a teenager, and her reflections are only ever those held over from adolescence: the book contains too few of the insights or wisdoms of age. For example, Maddy remarks:

"For every fact transcribed in these CONFESSIONS there are a dozen facts, a hundred facts, my God maybe a thousand left out... Can you tell the truth if it isn't the entire truth? — and what is truth? Surely this last is a question that, by the age of fifty, all but philosophers keep to themselves?"

But 50-year-old Maddy does know, although she feigns not to; and she is, moreover, an expert manipulator of her tale. That Oates should bestow both narrative knowledge and power upon her

character and yet then exhort her to deny them seems perverse and, in some way, hasty — a haste that is felt throughout the novel. Despite its plethora of interesting ideas, the novel reads, ultimately, as though Oates had finished too quickly with confessions of a girl gang, fleshing out Maddy's story without bothering to work through the implications of remembering such a story. It is as if Oates's agile talent had already turned to the next project, before the flame of *Black Water* had quite burnt itself out.

Was this poetic justice?

Robert Nye

THE ERN MALLEY AFFAIR
By Michael Heyward
Faber, £15.99

Sidney Nolan even painted some pictures based on Ern Malley's imagery, a vivid amalgam of neo-romantic surrealism and good old-fashioned unintelligibility.

Then, at the height of a critical furor which promised to make Ern Malley the most famous Australian since Ned Kelly, the kangaroo droppings really hit the

fan. Enquiries at Ethel's alleged address in a Sydney suburb revealed that she did not exist, and what is more, that there had never been a poetic Ern either.

Two young poets serving in the army stepped forward. Their names were James McAuley and Harold Stewart, and they had (they confessed) knocked off the complete works of "Ern Malley" in one afternoon, just to see if it could be done, and as a protest against pretension. They declared that they had patched together all sorts of random stuff to make their genius, from obscure bits of Shakespeare to lines lifted straight from an Ameri-

can report on the drainage of breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

It is hard not to feel a touch sorry for poor Max Harris. He was taken in, after all, by a complete fiction. Ethel as well as Ern, falling in love with the idea of a dead neglected poet, a romantic ghost. The story takes a nasty twist when we learn that he was even summoned to court for his trouble, the Malley poems being prosecuted for obscenity. He survived this, with a fine, and in more recent times has been good-hearted enough even to be photographed in the company of actors dressed up as Ern and Ethel Malley, all grinning foolishly.

Heyward makes a splendid feast of the whole business in his book, at once a study of literary silliness and a celebration of human nature. I gather that Max still loves Ern's poems, though he knows they pulled his leg off. The latest poetical wonder John Ashbery likes them, too. When he was teaching at Brooklyn College, in the exam for his creative writing course, he used to print a Malley poem alongside one by the acclaimed modern English poet Geoffrey Hill, both unattributed, and ask his students which one was the real. Hill picked Malley. Which means half

The astronomer and the dwarf

Michael Wright

THE DORK OF CORK
By Chet Raymo
Bloomsbury, £14.99

Never mind that this colourful little novel was written by an American professor of physics and astronomy. Never mind that it has a Hollywood B-movie dustjacket. Chet Raymo has penned a fine work whose lightness is not to be mistaken for levity. Whose romanticism steers wide of sentimentality, and whose blurring of the margin between science and art is especially welcome at a time when the two camps crazed "subjective" experimentation in the blue corner, crazed "objective" experimentation in the red seem hell-bent on alienating one another and leaving simple humanity languishing somewhere in between.

Frank Bois, an Irish dwarf with a taste and talent for star-gazing, is the novel's narrator, hero and anti-hero. His frank chronicle of his messy life runs from his far-from-innocent conception in the hold of a US troopship, via lunar eclipses, childhood traumas, flaring comets and unrequited

passions, to the successful publication of his memoir, "Nightstalk". This is the account of a 43-inch 43-year-old burning with lust, self-hatred and a love of the stars.

The *Dork of Cork* is about ways of seeing, from reflecting telescopes to religious visions, from Frank's glorious descriptions of the night sky to his blistering portrayal of what he perceives as his own ugliness; from his obsessive voyeurism, astronomy and pornography, to his experience on the other side of

the lens, when he is paraded as a freak to promote his book. Raymo is as adept at pointing out the ways in which everyday life conforms to the laws of quantum physics as he is at evoking the sheer spine-tingling loveliness of the night sky. From the blue corner, shamefully, I confess to having been surprised that an astrophysicist should be capable of achieving this, let alone of writing — in spangled, jangling prose — so delightful a novel.

Phantom of the feminist opera

Frances Stead Sellers

THE GIRL WHO TROD ON A LOAF
By Kathryn Davis
Hambledon, £10.95

the bog to become a statue in the devil's courtyard. In Helle's operatic version, however, the girl is a heroine, who uses the bog, a symbol of female oppression, as her stepping stone.

In her attempt to complete the work the narrator and the novel gets bogged down in a painstakingly elaborate reconstruction of Helle's musical compositions and the story of her life. This includes her mother's conspicuous adultery and early death, and Helle's subsequent escape from a cruel stepmother to the Copenhagen conservatory, where she passes herself off as a man.

The novel is almost redeemed by its dramatic climax: a masked ball, promising the theatrical extravagance of grand opera, which the dying Helle arranges to celebrate her last birthday. Disguised as a grotesque bird, Helle confronts Frances who is dressed as the virgin priestess Turandot and attended by her lover in a death's head mask.

It is in such darkly evocative moments, and her depiction of an ominous Danish landscape where myth intersects disconcertingly with reality, that Davis's descriptive powers triumph. But the background finally swamps the story, and the scenery obscures the performance.

Hitler's champion on the campus

Daniel Johnson

MARTIN HEIDEGGER
A Biographical Life
By Hugo Ott
Translated by Alan Blunden
Harper, £22

How defences of the indefensible have never been as successful, and at times as elegant, as the long campaign waged by and on behalf of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger since 1945. From the ignominy of denazification hearings before a committee of former colleagues at Freiburg University and a ban on teaching imposed by the French occupying authorities that remained in force until 1951, Heidegger emerged to become more celebrated and, especially in France and America, more influential than ever before. By the time of his death in 1968, Heidegger was not merely rehabilitated, but revered.

His version of his career between 1933 and 1945 was accepted even by those who observed his apparent lack of remorse. It was more than a decade after the philosopher's death that a Christian expurgator of Heidegger, Victor Farber, caused a furor in France with his book *Heidegger et le Nazisme*, which portrayed the academic world with the ugly truth for the first time. It was Farber who suffered denazification from the Heideggerians, especially in Germany, but he has been an influential force in the history of German thought, and his book has been widely read.

Now Ott has published his own book, and it is an even more damning indictment. Although he admits that there is still more digging to be done, as former Nazi German archives yield up their secrets, and as the Heidegger family disposes of unclassified papers and correspondence, the overall picture is now clear. Heidegger was indeed "an Nazi" and

was the "lively incubation of the aims of a National Socialist revolution."

Even when he was faced with the failure of his bid for power, because the party preferred to promote its own long-standing, moderate, Heidegger declared that his aim all along had been "the radical transformation of scientific education in line with the dynamics and dictates of the National Socialist state". Heidegger played with fire and burnt his fingers, but he was "a willing sacrifice" for the sake of Adolf Hitler: "The Führer himself and alone is the German reality, present and future, and its law." Such sacrifices were not, of course, to be taken literally: when in the last months of the war Heidegger and other academics were marched off to dig trenches in accordance with the Führer's general mobilisation, his friends in the hierarchy saw it that he was almost immediately exempted.

When that failed, he concentrated on Freiburg, where he was active in carrying out the purge of Jews, pacifists and other dissidents "to the left". He was ruthless, and Heidegger's in his treatment of pacifists, not was he alone in his actions, but he was one of the few who did so.

Heidegger's friends and pupils, including his girlfriend Hannah Arendt, had seen Jews only made his accusations worse. He denounced his former partners and colleagues from the Catholic church to the Socialists, and received their help when he needed it after 1945. So far from resisting the Nazi onslaught upon academic freedom, he denounced the old order with all the prejudice and gratitude that the Nazi master Heidegger was a prime mover in setting up summer camps for students, the purpose of which

was the "lively incubation of the aims of a National Socialist revolution."

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Heidegger: tyrant of Freiburg

war social-roulet economy, and even his fellow philosopher and former friend, Karl Jaspers, recommended that he should lose his chair. Heidegger was lucky to escape more severe punishment: unlike his friend Carl Schmitt, the only other major thinker who sought to become a Nazi ideologue, Heidegger did not suffer imprisonment or the loss of his library.

Ott does not offer a complete account of the life, still less attempt to interpret the philosophy. But those who are serious about Heidegger's thought will have to deal with the facts that Ott has painstakingly assembled. They will no longer be satisfied with the pleas in mitigation which even Heidegger's critics such as George Steiner have offered in the past, mistakenly relying on Heidegger's word as they did. Any new documents that emerge in the future are more than likely to damage Heidegger's already irreparable reputation still further. What remains?

On the road to hell

Christina Koning

JESUS' SON
By Denis Johnson
Faber, £14.99
THE QUEST FOR DR U
By Hans Carl Artmann
Atlas, £7.99 pbk original
THE CYCLOPEAN MISTRESS
By Peter Redgrove
Bloodaxe, £7.95
HALLOWED GROUND
By Robert Edric
Sunk Island Publishing, £6.99

THE TITLE of Denis Johnson's collection is from the Lou Reed song, "Heroin", and heroin is the thread connecting all these stories. "Car Crash While Hitchhiking", which is narrated, like the others, in the first person, sets the tone. A man accepts a lift from a family driving through Missouri, despite a premonition that they are about to be involved in a fatal accident. Woken from his drug-induced stupor by the impact of the crash, he finds himself unharmed, but covered in someone else's blood. At the hospital, he hears a woman screaming as she is told the news of her husband's death: "It felt wonderful to be alive to hear I've gone looking for that feeling everywhere."

A sense of emotional disengagement pervades all these fictions. Successive stories show the protagonist getting involved in petty crime to pay for his habit, attending an abortion clinic with his girlfriend and working in the casualty ward of a local hospital. In each case, the body count is fairly high. People are murdered, or kill themselves with overdoses. Friends and lovers are routinely betrayed in the pursuit of drugs. The cumulative effect of all this would be depressing but, like many writers of the "dirty realist" school, Johnson is a romantic at heart, with an eye for the austere beauty of the mid-western landscape and a fondness for lyrical epiphany.

DEVILS, shamans, werewolves, ghouls, fairies and quick-change artists form the cast of Hans Carl Artmann's surreal fantasy, which first appeared in German in 1977, and follows the narrator's search for his alter ego, the diabolical Dr Unspeakeable, mass-murderer and master of disguise. The quest takes in a number of places — Carnac, Penzance, Tintagel — whose occult associations provide an excuse for a series of digressions on subjects ranging from Celtic mythology to the spaghetti western, ending up in that most popular of surrealist locations: the cinema. Here, the versatile Dr U performs the last of his transformations, and the whole elaborate contrivance is revealed as no more than a literary conjuring trick — a belated homage to Marcel Duchamp and the boys.

PETER Redgrove's collected short fiction offers a different slant on the surrealist experiment. These pieces, spanning 30 years of writing, describe a range of subjects, many of them erotic, in a vivid, dreamlike language. In the title story, a beautiful woman with a single eye in the middle of her forehead — like a figure in a Max Ernst painting — instructs the narrator in the importance of "unified vision". If there is a unifying factor in these writings, it is their preoccupation with sex, and with the female body. In "Dance the Putrefaction" a man fashions a woman out of mud, and then buries himself in her in an orgy of self-abnegation; in "Luminous Collar", the fold of a woman's blouse reminds her lover of her vulva. There are moments when the intimacy of the writing seems more suited to a love letter or a private journal.

The concealment of shameful knowledge is central to Robert Edric's novella, which is set in a small town in southern Germany in 1945. Here, the British and American officers in charge of interrogating German prisoners of war have to sift through a mass of half-truths and disinformation to discover which of their captives are guilty of war crimes. Although he offers no new interpretation of his subject, Edric evokes the bitterness of a defeated community and the war-weariness of the occupying forces with conviction.

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سكينة والاحمد

Victoria Glendinning feasts on the candid memoirs of the man who played chief troubleshooter for Britain's artistic, political and business bigwigs

TELL THEM I'M ON MY WAY
By Arnold Goodman
Chapmans, £20

NOT AN ENGLISHMAN:
Conversations with Lord Goodman
By David Selbourne
Sinclair-Stevenson, £17.99

received his peerage in 1965, protested against Wilson's 1976 Honours list, in which both these other gentlemen were ennobled. His contempt falls most heavily on those who actively solicit honours. His own came unsought, like the gentle rain from heaven.

He reveals nothing about his private life except that he owes a debt of gratitude to "a small number of women who over the years have given me their affection and often more than their affection." He calls himself an accidental bachelor. Perhaps no woman could sustain his mother's standard of total admiration. His interpretation of Lady Falkender's hold over Willson is that he was simply frightened of her. He is dismissive enough about women in the autobiography, but a fuller truth emerges in *Nor An Englishman*, which is a circular, repetitive but riveting record of conversations with David Selbourne. "I have a deep-seated conviction that women are intellectually inferior to men." That's just for starters. He seems to see females either as the White Queen — supid and dotty — or as the Red Queen — self-assertive and dotty. "There is something tragic about women."

"Curiouser and curiouser," said Alice.

**THE CHURCHILL WAR
PAPERS, VOLUME I**
At the Admiralty
Edited by Martin Gilbert
Heinemann, £75

When, in April 1940, Churchill was also appointed chairman of the military co-ordination committee composed of the three service ministers and the three chiefs of staff, he complained that the cabinet was not listening to their advice. Frustrating to him as this was, it was a useful dress rehearsal for his real test that was to begin in the following month. His performance at the Admiralty had already cast him as leading man.

the same comments might be made on *Circles of Hell*, one of the same in 1964.

He categorises the war in Italy as one of the great defensive campaigns of modern times, but only as far as the Germans were con-

Although the campaign kept German troops in the peninsula, it also engaged even more of the Allies. Morris has written an engrossing, fast-moving narrative.

Citadel is an absorbing, wholly accessible account of the battle half-a-century ago. Cross's broad thesis, that this was the greatest single battle of the war, is a claim which few might seriously dispute.

Earthscan, £10.95 pbk original

Although his book focuses narrowly on American policy, Low's own figures show that on just about any measure of protectionism the EC is the worst offender of the three main trading powers. Indeed it is a moot point whether much EC policy from the common

For Lang and Hines it is the Third World which is always the loser. They assume that the West is rich because the Third World is poor; there is no recognition of the enormous productive capacity created within the first world. They say they are against the free market and free trade; but their own economic theory is garbled to



the point of being incomprehen- taken into account in the price of

the point of being incomprehensible. Their politics is as muddled as their economics — this is one of those books which manages to combine an indictment of incompetent politicians with a touching faith that greater political direction of national economies could somehow make things better.

Nevertheless the book does plant the seeds of doubt. Do all of our current trading arrangements make sense in the long term? Sitting in a restaurant in Washington drinking a bottle of Perrier, one does wonder whether the costs of transportation have been fully taken into account in the price of the drink. How has it become rational for croissants to be baked in Spain for sale in north London?

But such insights can be incorporated into the framework of free market economics. And the authors' policy agenda largely comprises ideas such as resource taxes and tradable pollution permits which are impeccably free market. Indeed I find myself in the odd position of agreeing much more with the book's conclusions than with its underlying assumptions. Perhaps there is a way forward after all.

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Modest men of the track whose currency is medals



Abrahams: coached

WHEN Carl Lewis raced against Linford Christie in Gateshead a fortnight ago, they appeared for £100,000 each. The men who turned them into two of the highest earners in athletics, their coaches, were also paid the same as each other. Nothing. Not that you will hear either complaining, quite the reverse. "I would not feel comfortable taking money," Ron Roddan, Christie's coach, said. Tom Tellez, Lewis's coach, explained: "Carl has offered me money but I do not feel I should accept it. Now I can tell him anything I want. If I was paid, I might not tell him what I think."

How different from the Twenties, when sprinters earned nothing, but the most famous of the day, Harold Abrahams, employed a

coach, Sam Mussabini. When Abrahams won the 1924 100 metres Olympic gold medal, Mussabini was not allowed into the stadium because he was professional. Though Roddan is not, Tellez is a professional, making his living as coach at Houston University. His salary is \$47,000 (about £31,000), and he leads what he describes as "a teacher's life-style". Home for the man who directed Christie to the biggest honour in the sport, the Olympic 100 metres gold medal, is a modest flat in Harlesden. Roddan was made redundant in 1989 and has been unemployed since. Be it Houston or Harlesden, the reward is the same: enough for each man to know that his theories are working and that time invested has



While Lewis and Christie run for fame and fortune, their coaches want neither, David Powell says

not been wasted. Tellez has coached Lewis for 14 years and Roddan has been with Christie for about as long. Both have jobs in Stuttgart this weekend, fine-tuning their men on the warm-up track before sending them into the competition arena for the world championships. Lewis is looking for his sixth world title, Christie for his first.

While Christie and Lewis thrive on the big stage, neither Roddan nor Tellez does. They are never at presentations, never at press conferences given by their athletes.

"I have never been an extrovert, though I have a bit more confidence now," Roddan said. And Tellez? "I was not a confident person in my younger years and I am still insecure in large groups." Yet hear what the athletes say about them. Lewis on Tellez: "I love him. He is matter of fact, straightforward and he cares about you." Christie on Roddan: "Ron's a great coach. I would not be where I am now without him."

Tellez, 59, works by science; Roddan, 62, more by instinct. Tellez took his lead from

Geoff Dyson, the British coach, and was inspired by Dyson's book from the 1960s, *Mechanics of Athletics*, using the lessons from it as the tools of his trade. "There are certain ways the body works the best and you have to take that material and incorporate it into teaching athletes," Tellez said. And Roddan's view? "I read his [Dyson's] book and never took much notice."

Rodnan was a useful 440 yards runner (50.3sec) and, unlike Tellez, who had wanted to be a coach since his schooldays, came to it by accident. His own coach at Thames Valley Harriers, Arthur Filkins, had to retire through ill health and Roddan, at 31, was next in line. "I was the oldest in the group; they looked at me and

said: 'You'll carry on, won't you?' A crash course in coaching with the Central Council for Physical Recreation and he was ready. Compare Christie's musculature with Lewis's and it is no surprise to learn that the Briton spends hours with weights, Lewis never. "Christie is stronger. Lewis is more efficient in the use of his strength," is the Tellez analysis. His scientific mind would not have approved of Abrahams' final words to Mussabini before the 1924 Olympic final. "Only think of two things. The report of the pistol and the tape. When you hear one just run like hell until you break the other."

David Lewis, the British marathon runner, has withdrawn from the world championships because of injury.



Roddan: unemployed

Suspension threat hangs over Morceli

FROM DAVID MILLER IN STUTTGART

NOUREDDINE Morceli, the 1,500 metres world champion of 1991 and the record-holder, risks suspension and being banned from the 1996 Olympic Games if he boycotts the world championships that begin here on Saturday.

He seems to have forgotten something quite important. Morceli, from Algeria, and Aram Brhania, his coach, who have been asserting that these championships do not matter without any prize-money, have overlooked the decision taken by the council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) at Jakarta in January, specifically designed to protect the championships from such action. Morceli has until next Wednesday, the first-round heats, to think again.

The council's ruling is that an athlete selected by his country who refuses to compete shall be suspended for two months from all competition, and be ineligible for the subsequent Olympic Games. Morceli's absence here would therefore cost him a possible \$200,000 by missing Mobil Grand Prix races in Berlin, Brussels and Crystal Palace, and much more in lost endorsements prior to the games in Atlanta. Yobes Ondieki, of Kenya, however, is not affected by the ruling, because he did not seek selection and was omitted by Kenya.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the IAAF, said yesterday that he was hoping Morceli would relent. "The council is most keen to make an example of individuals who refuse to run," Nebiolo said. "Our new regulation was intended to discourage absentees, and I am most keen that Morceli should not penalise himself, for he is a great runner."

IAAF officials were yesterday attempting to contact Morceli or Brhania to remind them of the rules. Brhania, in justifying Morceli's attitude, has been quoted referring to the rumour that the IAAF had offered financial inducement to the Santa Monica Club to

ensure the presence of Carl Lewis.

The rumour has gathered credence because of the money paid to Lewis last year to appear at the grand prix final in Turin. It is also known that Lewis and his manager, Joe Douglas, have suggested a bonus for participation in Stuttgart, to which Nebiolo yesterday reacted angrily.

"Morceli, and anyone else, should understand that no money has been offered to any athlete," he insisted. The compensatory bonus is a Mercedes car for each event winner, valued at \$60,000, but this has been dismissed by some leading athletes as inadequate, never mind a controversy over who pays the import duty.

Some observers consider that Morceli's motivation for staying away may be tactical: to protect his status, and avoid defeat in a kick-finish to a slow race such as he suffered in the Olympics last year.

Morceli, in superb form last weekend in Monte Carlo, won the 1991 world title by two seconds in a fast race (3min 32.84sec), but is less happy when there is no pacemaker and four men are eyeball to eyeball 150 metres from the finish. Nonetheless, he will be foolish not to fulfil Algeria's nomination.

The congress yesterday approved by a predictable 138 votes to 40 — more than even a three-quarters majority — to transfer the IAAF headquarters from London to Monte Carlo. Only a quarter of the London staff are expected to remain when the move takes place as soon as is practical. Over 30 nations spoke, some of them opposition disturbed by undemocratic procedures.

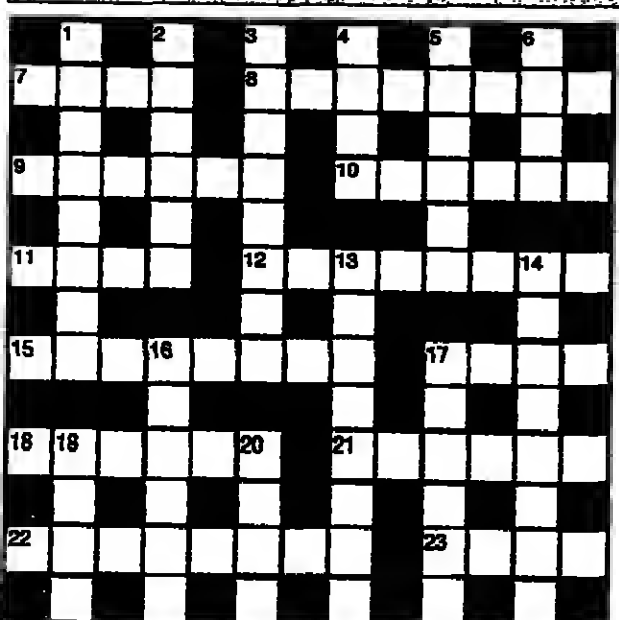
Yet what the issue has most exposed is Britain's political inexperience and administrative incompetence when it comes to negotiating deals outside the conference room long before the voting takes place.



Risk business: The skater, Natalya Risk, who won a world junior title for the Soviet Union in 1986 as Natalya Gorbenko, practises in London with the aim of representing Britain. Report, page 40

Letters, page 40

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3172



ACROSS

- 7 New Orleans music (4)
- 8 Combined (3,2,3)
- 9 Terror (6)
- 10 Dull, sluggish (6)
- 11 Snake noise (4)
- 12 US petrol (8)
- 13 Challenger's glove (8)
- 14 Sermon topic (4)
- 15 Disgraced (6)
- 16 Disco light (6)
- 21 Soothed (8)
- 23 Agitation (4)

DOWN

- 1 Bright glazed pottery (8)
- 2 Ponta Delgada islands (6)
- 3 Pastoral part song (8)
- 4 Mortuary table (4)
- 5 Whine (6)
- 6 Unknown author (4)
- 13 Fallow land payment (3,5)
- 14 Runner up (4,4)
- 16 Count (6)
- 17 Sea pink (6)
- 19 Salesman's exaggeration (4)
- 20 Spurt (4)

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Maggert joins shortlist for Ryder Cup team

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN TOLEDO, OHIO

TOM Watson gave a few hints as to the sort of players he wants in his Ryder Cup team on the eve of the 75th US PGA championship at the Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio, yesterday.

The leading ten players at the end of this championship are automatically selected for the match against Europe at The Belfry from September 24 to 26. Watson will announce his two selections to round off the 12-man team on Monday.

"I want heart, guts, stick-to-it-ness," Watson said when asked to name the sort of characteristics he will look for among his players. He said he has a shortlist of about half a dozen men in mind.

Watson's shortlist, which is not so short, comprises Larry Wadkins, Ray Floyd, Larry Mize, Fuzzy Zoeller and Jeff Maggert. Wadkins and Floyd are obvious choices, Wadkins having played on seven of the past eight matches and Floyd seven of the past 12. Mize and Zoeller are both former US Masters champions, former Ryder Cup players and proven

competitors in the heat of battle.

Maggert, however, is more of a surprise. The 27-year-old is in only his fourth season on United States Tour and has yet to win a tournament. Watson added that the name of Curtis Strange, who won the US Open in 1988 and 1989, was mentioned a lot to him. "I shall be talking to him this week," Watson said.

Would one of the men he is considering be John Daly, Watson was asked? "The up side of Daly is his length, the down side his Ryder Cup inexperience," Watson replied.

It looks as though Watson will go for proven winners, men who have experienced true pressure and in this he will be matched by Bernard Gallacher, the European captain.

"Our team is the stronger," Watson said with a mischievous smile, "but the Europeans will have home advantage."

Norman's challenge, page 42
Course guide, page 42

A full guide to the fixtures for the FA Carling Premiership, the Endisleigh Football League, and all the cup and international competitions for the season ahead. Pages 38-39

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By Raymond Keene

UNANIME
a. Unanimous
b. A reverse synonym
c. A flower with only one sepal
THOAN
a. From the north wind
b. Like a jackal
c. Fleet-footed

By Philip Howard

FISTIC
a. Credulous
b. Pugilistic
c. Sticky, glutinous
GRACER
a. Someone who graces
b. A racing roller-skate
c. A two-year-old filly

Answers on page 38